THE VICEROY: OUR BEST NEW DINING DESTINATION

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Hot Summer Looks

LUXURY
How It's Changed, but Never Went Away

HOME TRENDS
Can Big+Luxe also be Green?

GALLERY GUIDE

Chef Francis Mo of the Viceroy's new sushi restaurant, Nest.

Happiness is...

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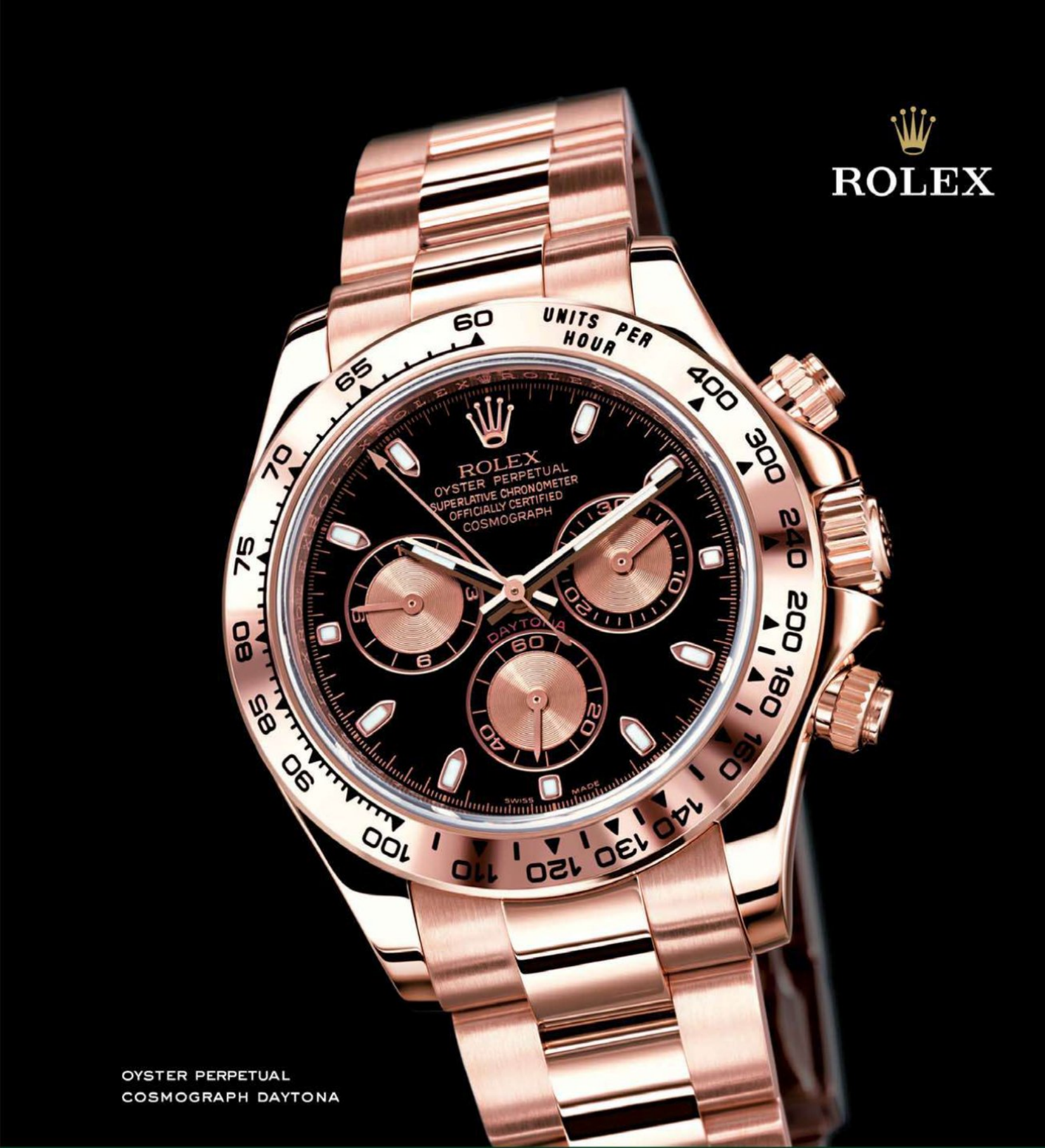

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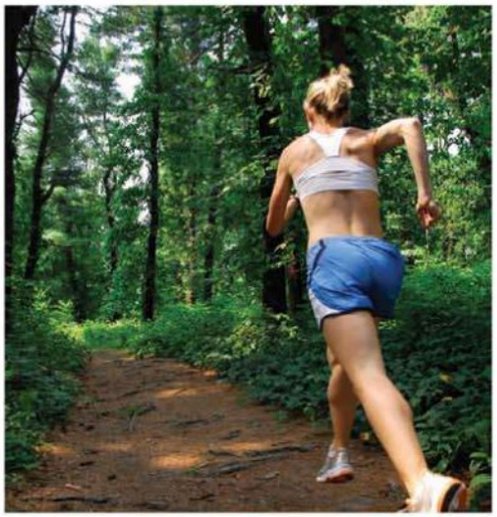

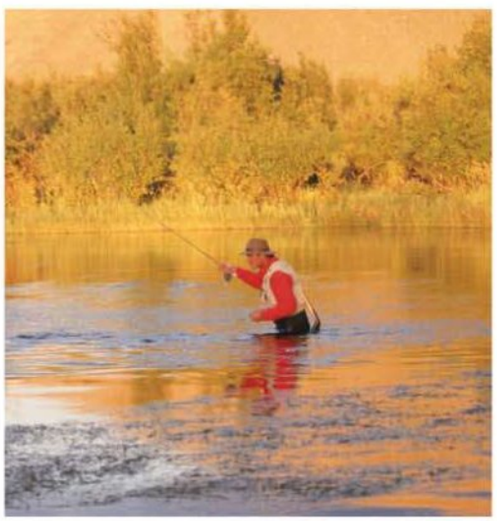

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Jeff David, GM of the Viceroy Snowmass, enjoying sushi from Nest.

61

72

102

INSIDE! REAL ESTATE & HOME DESIGN

SUMMER 2010

Features

61 | RESTAURANT BUZZ: THE VICEROY
Aspen's best new restaurants just happen to be in Snowmass. Really? Believe it! The Viceroy's Eight K and Nest are hot dining destinations this summer.
BY JANET O'GRADY; PHOTOGRAPHY BY THADDEUS HARDEN

66 | AMAZING GRAPES
Inside the rarely seen cellars of four Aspenities who have a passion for wine. BY KELLY HAYES; PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN BAYER AND JASON DEWEY

72 | FASHION: GET IN THE SUMMER GROOVE
Looks you want this season.
PHOTOGRAPHY BY THADDEUS HARDEN

ON THE COVER: Shot on location at Viceroy Snowmass for *Aspen Magazine* by Thaddeus Harden.

OPEN HOUSE

102 | HOME: LEED-A-LICIOUS
Can luxury be green too? BY SUZANNE FARVER

106 | ART FOR YOUR HOME
Paintings for your collection.

108 | REAL ESTATE
How do potential buyers and sellers come up with the right price in a thin market?
BY MATTHEW J. MALONE

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Views

38 | RESTAURANTS/FOOD/WINE
New Tables: Peach's; Hestia; Epicurious's sought-after crab cake recipe; Dish.

40 | BUZZ: THE ANNUAL FOOD & WINE CLASSIC
How to take some of the Classic home with you, from pairing burgers and wine to creating your own Mexican pantry, and more.
BY LINDA HAYES AND THE EDITORS

44 | WINE: CURATING YOUR COLLECTION
New York–based Italian Wine Merchants has landed slopeside with a new service to curate your wine collection for you. BY TED LOOS

46 | FOOD: ARTISANAL GRILLED CHEESE
Cheese expert **Laura Werlin** will be presenting a program at the Classic on an exciting new way to enjoy grilled cheese.

50 | LOCAL(TARIAN) HEROES
Aspen Magazine salutes these individuals who are making a difference. BY TOM PASSAVANT

54 | THE LOCAVORE COLUMN
Chef **Ryan Hardy** weighs in on the local scene.

54 | LUXURY
Janet O'Grady attends the 2010 Luxury Summit: the experts say a comeback is on the way.

26

INSIDER

18 | TOWN
Children's Health Foundation's bash; biking is big in Lance's new hometown; and 81611.

20 | HOT LIST
Not to be missed summer events.

22 | SPORTING LIFE
Necessary luxuries for living the life.

24 | AUTOS
Hardtop convertibles are this summer's drive buys.

26 | JEWELRY
Pieces to invest in and love.

28 | STYLE
J.Crew's hot designer and mountain style.

30 | CULTURE
The Aspen Ideas Festival offers amazing talks—and maybe even better, social networking.

32 | ARTS
Mapplethorpe's works at Baldwin, a hot group show at Maximillian.

34 | CULTURE
Alan Fletcher looks back on the heritage of classical music. And Anderson Ranch gets a new director.

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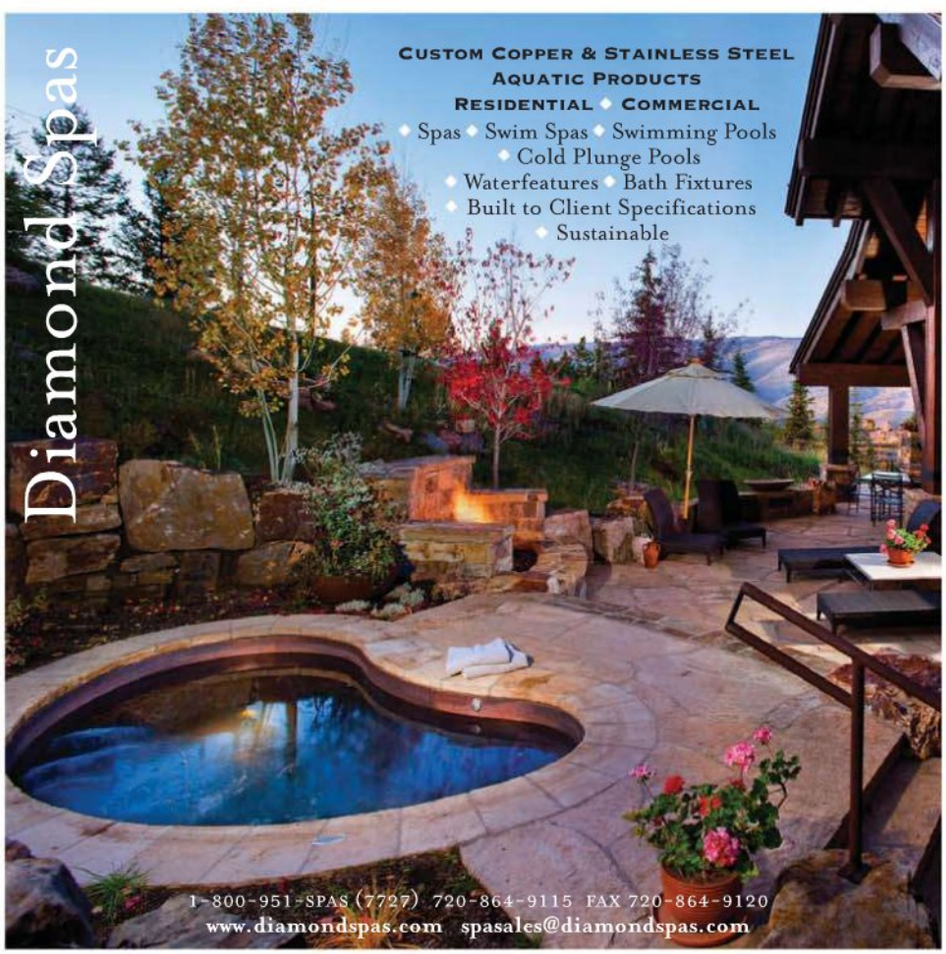

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REASON TO CELEBRATE

I loved a quote from Jerry Murdock in our story on wine collectors (page 66): "When I first started to drink really good red wine, it slowed me down. It made me look at the food and perhaps the person I was with, and it made me realize there was maybe more to everything." His description resonates for me, and I think it will for you, too. Another word that came to mind, from this quote and many of the other stories in this issue: happiness.

HAPPINESS WAS ALSO a word I heard often at the annual American Express Luxury Summit this year (page 56). While a lot of the discussion centered on marketing and how people shop these days, the talks went deeper than that: They were about how we live, think, what we care about, and the ways we have changed, especially in light of the recession and the digital revolution. Call it a necessary luxury, but happiness, along with quality and authenticity, matters more than ever.

The strength of our valley's locavore movement certainly is a source of culinary happiness. In this issue we honor some of our localtarian heroes (page 50). Ryan Hardy—local visionary, organic farmer, and chef at The Little Nell's Montagna—debuts our new Locavore column (page 54).

We took a different approach this year to our coverage of the Food & Wine Classic and made "local" the idea in two presentations that intrigued us. But that meant we didn't have space for a couple of my personal favorites, like the event honoring heritage pigs; it features 10 chefs and 10 pigs in a "head-to-toe" competition of inventing dishes, with the winner to be named the 2010 King or Queen of Pork. Check it out at cochon555.com.

How could we not think of happiness when we met chef Francis Mo for our cover story on why the Viceroy's new restaurants, Eight K and Nest, are putting Snowmass on the map as a dining destination? At Nest, casual and fun meet quality. Viceroy's GM Jeff David and his staff truly see themselves as in the business of creating happiness at Snowmass's new eco-luxury hotel (page 61).

As Aspen's summer season kicks off, our calendars become jam-packed with concerts, dance performances, art shows, talks, hikes, and bike rides. Remember to slow down over a glass of red wine and realize there is more to everything. It's called happiness.

ON MY RADAR

I'm looking forward to:

1. Our **annual kickoff party** for the Food & Wine Classic is a town tradition. Held this year at **Viceroy Snowmass,** our party promises memorable tasting, sipping, and social networking.

2. An invite from **The Little Nell's** John Speers to go **fly-fishing** for the first time as part of the Nell's new program, featuring customized private access to Gold Medal waters in and near Aspen.

3. Hearing **Bill Gates** speak at the Aspen Ideas Festival.

4. My new morning treat: the crunchy-top peach coffee cake from Basalt's **Midland Bakery,** sold at the new **Peach's Corner Café.**

5. A ride or two with the **Ajax Tavern Bike Team.**

6. **Jazz Aspen's 20th anniversary...** Great job, Jim and Mark!

7. The **Aspen Music Festival's** always glamorous **Opera Benefit**—*The Barber of Seville*—July 15.

8. Trying **chef Miles Angelo's new dishes** on the Caribou Club menu, inspired by the 'bou's annual culinary pilgrimage, this year to Napa Valley.

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Laura Werlin
Contributing Editor

"A day without cheese isn't a day. It's an eternity."

You could call Laura Werlin one of the cheesiest women in America and she wouldn't even mind. As the award-winning author of four books on cheese, Werlin is a sought-after speaker at food and wine events around the country, including the Food & Wine Classic, and is a frequent television and radio guest. She is a die-hard grilled cheese aficionado, and her book *Great Grilled Cheese* is the inspiration for most of her dinners. As a result, you will find her hiking Smuggler or running up Castle Creek on a daily basis. "Say Grilled Cheese," page 46.

Ted Loos
Writer

"I think what Sergio Esposito is doing is a great service for Aspenites. I could use their help even on my small collection."

Ted Loos, a former editor of *Wine Spectator,* writes about wine, art, and culture for *Epicurious, Town & Country, Vogue, The New York Times,* and other publications. Based in New York, Loos wrote about IWM Cellars, a wine-collector service company, page 44.

Thaddeus Harden
Photographer

"I love Aspen for its high altitude, dry climate, blue sky."

Thaddeus Harden has been shooting portrait assignments since 1997. "Shooting portraits is a way to celebrate life," he says. "It is a declaration of your existence!" Everyone is a celebrity in Harden's eyes. His celebrity roster includes Nicole Kidman, Marcia Gay Harden, Megan Mullally, Spike Lee, Jane Krakowski, Monica Bellucci, and Ellen Burstyn. A resident of New York, Harden graced Aspen for the Summer issue cover shoot, as well as for "Summer Groove," page 72, and "Hot Spot," page 61.

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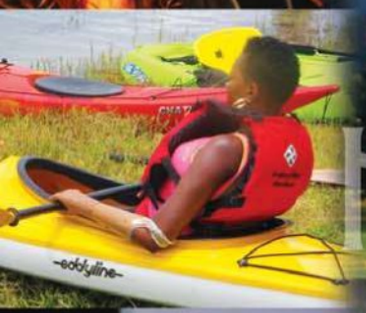

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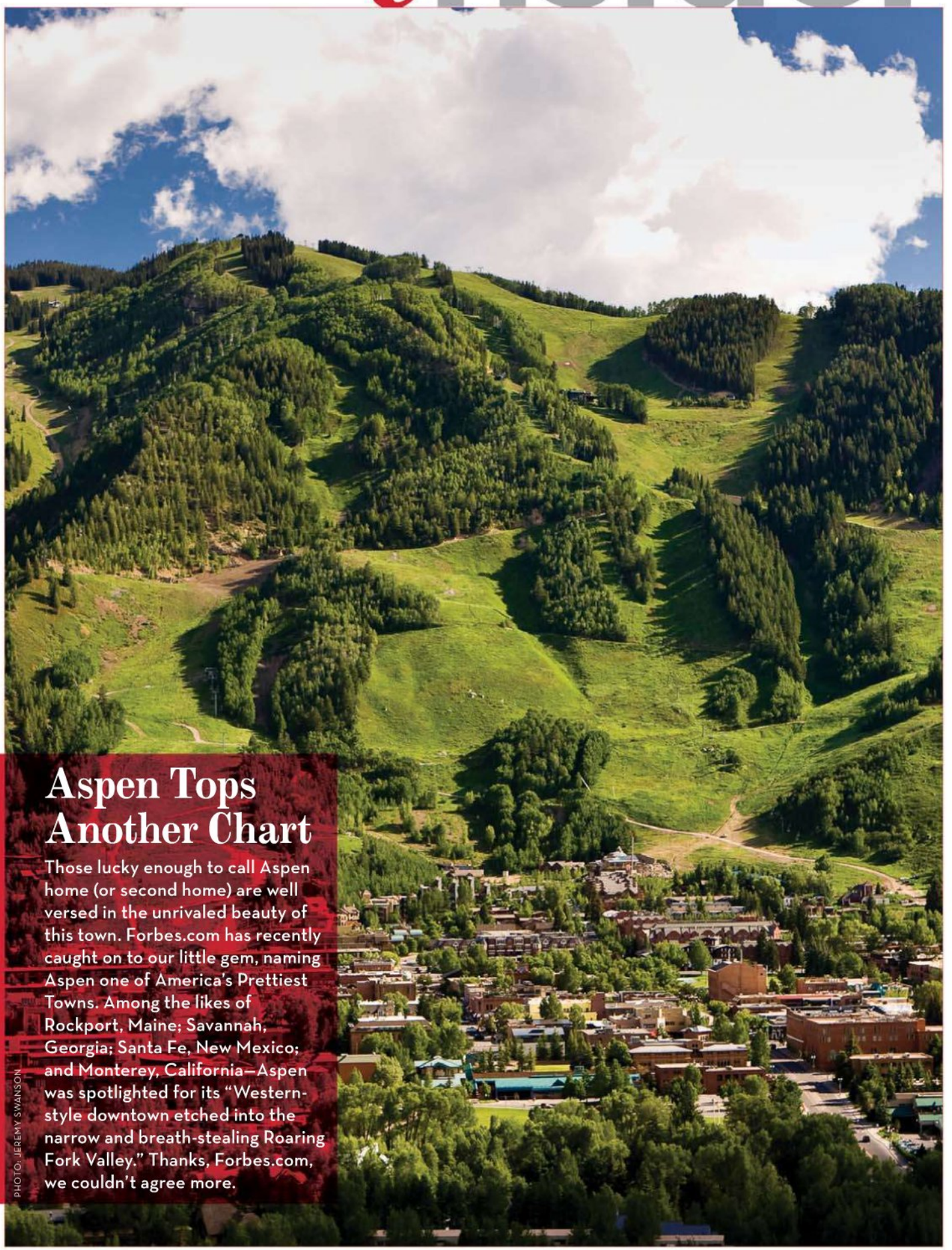

Aspen Tops Another Chart

Those lucky enough to call Aspen home (or second home) are well versed in the unrivaled beauty of this town. Forbes.com has recently caught on to our little gem, naming Aspen one of America's Prettiest Towns. Among the likes of Rockport, Maine; Savannah, Georgia; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Monterey, California—Aspen was spotlighted for its "Western-style downtown etched into the narrow and breath-stealing Roaring Fork Valley." Thanks, Forbes.com, we couldn't agree more.

PHOTO: JEREMY SWANSON

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VOCAL PLAY: Using only voices as instruments, Naturally 7 perform July 20 for Children's Health Foundation

PARTY OF THE MOMENT

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BUZZ *new*

HOW OFTEN do you find yourself in front of a five-course dinner prepared by nationally renowned chefs, drinking exquisite wine, and getting ready for a late night of super-cool musical entertainment with one of Aspen's finest crowds? (Well, maybe quite often; this *is* summer in Aspen.) With some spectacular Colorado cuisine at **The Little Nell** and a Naturally 7 benefit concert to follow at **Belly Up,** July 20 promises to be an evening you wouldn't dream of missing.

The fourth annual **"Greenalicious"** features the tasty talents of six culinary geniuses, including three of Aspen's own James Beard Award nominees for Best Chef Southwest: Mark Fischer of Six89, Ryan Hardy of Montagna, and Todd Slossberg of Plato's Restaurant. Also in the kitchen will be local consultant and entrepreneur Chris Keating, Kelly Liken of Kelly Liken Restaurant in Vail (another James Beard Award nominee), and Michel Nischan of The Dressing Room in Westport, Connecticut. The extravaganza at The Little Nell includes extraordinary wine pairings and a luxury live auction. All proceeds benefiting the Children's Health Foundation—the vision of founder **Betsy Fifield**—contribute to the elimination of childhood obesity and the daily nourishment of kids through the Lunch for Life Program.

After dark, the party moves over to Belly Up, where the sensational musicians of Naturally 7, taking a break from their international tour with Michael Buble, bring a little "vocal play" to our town. Using their voices as instruments, Naturally 7 not only redefine the art of a cappella; they get your feet moving. Tuesday, July 20, 6:30PM, at The Little Nell and Belly Up. Tickets available through the Children's Health Foundation office: 888-920-4750 or info@childrenshealthfoundation.net

GIVE BACK

Aspen has always been a biking mecca, but now that seven-time Tour de France winner and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong calls Aspen home, we are really inspired. The Little Nell even started a cycling team which includes the hotel's bigwigs, such as GM John Speers. Partnered with Fly Cyclery, the crew also plans on supporting this year's Susan G. Komen Ride for the Cure.

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» JUST DO IT

Word around town is that the Nike 6.0 athletes (think ski and snowboard's biggest names—Simon Dumont, TJ Schiller, Jossi Wells, Danny Kass, Louie Vito, and Greg Bretz) have been filming Nike commercials in our very own backyard. The gravity-defying group has been filming at night in Snowmass's 22-ft. halfpipe—breaking records with never-been-done-before tricks, in front of pyrotechnics that rival that of the Super Bowl. Stay tuned, as the hot new ads are said to air on all major networks come February.

» DOG TALK

Tap into your pooch's inner psyche when Cesar Millan, the Dog Whisperer comes to Aspen. Cesar—who gained prime-time fame for rehabilitating problem dogs—will appear at the Aspen Animal Shelter on July 10 for 100 lucky pet-owners, followed by a lecture and Q & A session at the Aspen District Theatre. Proceeds benefit the nonprofit Friends of the Aspen Animal Shelter's Roaring Fork Valley Spay/Neuter Campaign. Now you'll finally know what your furry best friend is *really* thinking.

» RED ONION

Brother-sister duo Jennifer and Thomas Colosi reopen the historic Red Onion this June. Honoring its heritage, the renovated space has a rustic feel—brick walls and old barnwood in the dining room-while the menu is a modern take on classic Red Onion favorites, such as burgers and specialty Southwestern fare.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF GREENALICIOUS; JEREMY SWANSON

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Happy 20th birthday, Jazz Aspen Snowmass

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JAZZ ASPEN SNOWMASS

The Hot List

WHAT TO SEE, WHAT TO DO

1 June 25-July 3

Once a small nonprofit, now a world-class multi-day festival, **Jazz Aspen Snowmass** is in tune and ready to hit all the right notes for its 20th anniversary. The multitalented **Harry Connick Jr.** is followed by world-class musicians such as **Dianne Reeves**, **Pink Martini**, **Fred Wesley**, then a finale with Grammy–winning artist **Natalie Cole.** 970-920-4996. *jazzaspen.org*

2 June 18-20

The biggest names in the culinary and wine worlds descend upon Aspen for a weekend of seminars, demos, pairings, and tastings during the **2010 Food & Wine Classic.** It's time to indulge your inner foodie and wine lover. Take a look at our full story on page 40. *foodandwine.com/classic-in-aspen*

3 June 20-25

The rich literary heritage of the American South - that's the theme of **Aspen Summer Words.** The engaging literary festival and writing retreat boasts an especially stunning faculty this year, from fiction author **Elizabeth McCracken** to poet **Dana Gioia.** 970-925-3122. *aspenwritersfoundation.org*

4 July 1-August 21

Theatre Aspen's presentation of **The Marvelous Wonderettes** will be a night of toe-tapping musical pop hits from the '50s and '60s. 970-923-9313. *theatreaspen.org*

5 July 1-August 22

Big dreamers. Big stars. Big music. It must be the annual **Aspen Music Festival** – eight weeks of orchestral concerts, chamber music, opera, contemporary music, master classes, lectures, and kids' programs. This season's festival promises appearances by pianists **Yefim Bronfman** and **Jeffrey Kahane,** a full orchestra performance of Beethoven and Strauss with soprano **Deborah Voigt,** and more than 350 events in all. See story, page 34. *aspenmusicalfestival.com*

6 July 4

When it comes to celebrating our nation's Independence Day, we are just a small town with a big heart. A jam-packed day starts with exercise for a cause: the 8AM **Boogie's Diner 5-mile Race.** Then claim your spot for a view of the old-fashioned **Fourth of July Parade** down Main Street at noon – book now and you might snag a spot at **Matsuhisa's annual Fourth of July barbecue.** Matsuhisa, 970-544-6628. And after dark, fireworks, of course. *The day's events: aspenchamber.org*

7 July 5-11

Join the world's most influential decisionmakers, environmentalists, politicians, and leaders for thought-provoking conversations during the sixth annual **Aspen Ideas Festival**. See story on page 30. *aifestival.org*

8 July 14

At its annual Recognition Dinner, **Anderson Ranch Arts Center** honors four individuals for their lifelong contributions to the visual arts. This year's party celebrates noted artists **Betty** and **George Woodman** and arts advocates **Garth Clark** and **Mark Del Vecchio.** 970-923-3181. *andersonranch.org*

9 August 2-3

Polish your set of clubs and get your best cocktail attire ready for the seventh annual **Golf Classic**. A benefit dinner and concert with hosts **Vince Gill** and **Amy Grant** is followed by a day of friendly competition with a host of PGA pros and celebs. The Golf Classic benefits **Challenge Aspen;** this year's dinner honors disabled servicewomen as featured guests. August 2–3. 970-923-0578. *challengeaspen.org*

10 August 6-8

In its first year, **ArtAspen** brings more than 4,000 artworks to town: a rare chance to find a plethora of must-have pieces in one place. August 6–8PM. *art-aspen.com*

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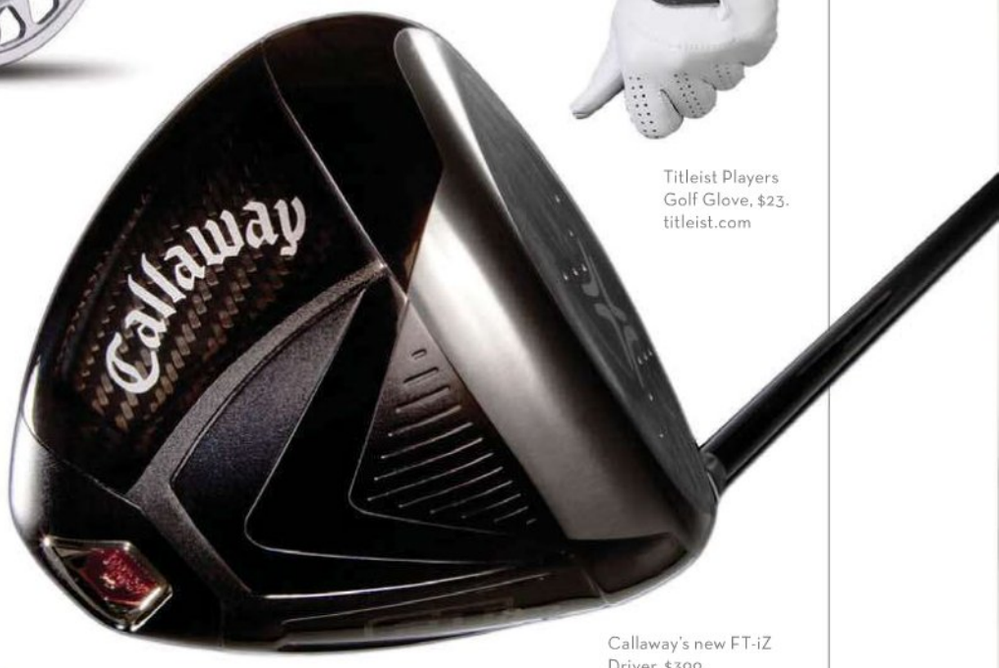

Callaway's new FT-iZ Driver, $399. callawaygolf.com

Shimano's 2010 SH-R240 custom-fit biking shoe, $300. **Basalt Bike and Ski**, 970-927-3460

Pinarello's 2010 Dogma 60.1, $5,500. **Fly Cyclery**, 970-925-9539

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF COMPANIES

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The Mercedes SLK of the 1990s was tame; today's is definitely not

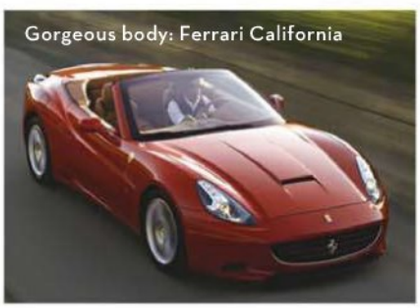
Top Down

Hardtop convertibles are this summer's coolest drive buys

By Sam Foley

THERE IS NO PERFECT car for Aspen. In summer, the same mountain passes that are so treacherous in winter become inviting roller-coaster rides with breathtaking vistas. Wouldn't it be great if someone designed an SUV with big, knobby tires and all-wheel drive for the winter that could somehow turn into a convertible sports car during the summer? Well, unfortunately, that car doesn't exist. And if it did, it would likely be a terrible compromise—not quite enough of an SUV to get the job done in winter and a poor excuse for a sports car in the summer.

There is, however, a class of coupes that come close to the ideal four-season car. They don't quite qualify for serious snow duty, but they do offer hardtop roofs that disassemble and fold themselves away through a breathtaking mechanical ballet that would make a seasoned contortionist cringe. There aren't that many of these cars on the market, yet they go by many names: droptops, cabriolets, hardtop convertibles, retractable hardtops.



Gorgeous body: Ferrari California

The technology has a long history. The first mechanically actuated hardtop convertible was the 1935 Peugeot 402 L Eclipse DeCapotable, a French four-seater with a comically extended rear end that held its roof when retracted. The idea first caught on in the United States in 1957, when Ford launched the Skyliner, a version of the Fairlane that stowed its lid (when it worked) with the help of three roof drive motors, four lift jacks, and 610 feet of wiring. Today, Skyliners are coveted collectibles.

The modern generation of hardtop convertibles was brought back by two cars in the 1990s: the Mitsubishi 3000GT Spyder and the **Mercedes Benz SLK.** The 3000GT is long gone, but the SLK lives on. The modern version of this two-seat roadster starts at $46,900 and comes with three engine choices: a base-model 3.0-liter, 228-hp V6; a $5,000 step-up to a 3.5-liter, 300-hp V6 that does 0–60 in 5.4 seconds; or the blisteringly fast SLK55 AMG ($66,650), which sports a 5.5-liter V8, outputs 355 hp, and is capable of rocketing to 60 mph in 4.9 seconds. As a two-seater, the SLK is a true sports car, and thus not the most practical daily driver when it comes to packing groceries, but it does have some nice touches. For instance, the optional AIRSCARF system keeps occupants cozy during top-down driving in cooler weather, blowing heated air through vents in the headrest. Keep in mind, however, that this vehicle is scheduled for a design refresh for the 2011 model year, so unless you're crazy about the current look, you might want to hold off to see what's coming.

The great convertible migration from soft to hardtop has been most pronounced in the 2+2 coupe segment (two seats in front and two smaller seats in the rear). The first manufacturer out of the gate was Volvo with the 2006 C70, which combined the company's coupe and convertible into one model. Today's **Volvo C70** (starting at $39,950) holds the same body styling, and although its turbocharged 2.5-liter inline five-cylinder engine has gotten a slight bump up since 2006 (from 218 hp to 227), this car is hardly a top-tier performer. Nevertheless, it is stylish with the top up or down, and with its plush leather seats, smartly designed controls, and clever features such as hideaway storage panels for the backseats, the Volvo is a comfortable daily driver. Plus, unlike some rear-wheel-drive high-performance competitors, the Volvo's front-wheel-drive platform should give it a slight advantage in snow.

"This class of coupes comes close to the ideal four-season car."

BMW 3 Series convertibles, on the other hand, are proudly rear-wheel-drive and unabashedly pricier than most of their four-seat-coupe competition. There are three configurations of BMW's three-liter inline six-cylinder engines to choose from: the naturally aspirated 230-hp **328i** (starting at $45,000), the twin-turbocharged 300-hp **335i** (starting at $51,200), and the **335is** (starting at $58,200), which also has the twin turbo but manages to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 167

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Breaking the Mold

Above: Nicholas Varney Cognac-Colored and Colorless Diamond, Spinel, Quahog Pearl Earrings; Below: Orange Fire Opal, Sapphire and Diamond "Pilar" Bracelet

Work by the always stylish and very social jewelry designer Nicholas Varney will be on display at Caribou Jewels from July 29 to 31. Varney's upcoming trunk show will not disappoint his loyal and glam customers. Inspired by the famous antler archway in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Varney's newest collection features fields of pavé-set stones, as well as tapered shapes that bend and pair around faceted jewels. "I wanted to experiment with antlers, like I have done with coral, but in a different color palette," says Varney, who is always pushing the envelope of jewelry design. ***431 East Hopkins Ave., 970-925-1930, cariboujewels.com***

Cartier Santos-Dumont Skeleton Watch

Inner Beauty

Many watch designers are shedding the metal layers and exposing the timepiece's elegant inner workings. Let's face it, skeleton watches are much more fun and interesting than your standard ticker, and Cartier's new Santos-Dumont version is one watch that you (and anyone nearby) will want to stare at all day long. Just because it's a skeleton watch doesn't mean that you're getting bare bones. The Santos-Dumont's case and deployment buckle are 18K white gold; the bridges are made of nickel silver and shaped to form Roman numerals; and Cartier's distinctive sapphire crown provides the finishing touches. Yes, this watch is perfect for après-ski and the beach, too, because this piece is water-resistant up to 100 feet. $44,000, ***cartier.com***

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF NICHOLAS VARNEY; COURTESY OF CARTIER

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Checking the window displays at J.Crew has become a favorite spectator sport for Aspenites.

PROFILE IN STYLE

Without Pretense

Jenna Lyons of J.Crew at the Mountain **BY NAOMI KAPLAN**

SINCE TAKING OVER J.Crew as creative director in 2007, 40-year-old Jenna Lyons has been credited with transforming an all-American brand into a multimillion-dollar retail empire while quickly rising to the top of the fashion pyramid in the process. This March, New York-based Lyons headed slopeside to Aspen Fashion Week to preview the new outerwear collections and pop into the brand's nearly two-year-old mountain shop.

"Each time I return to Aspen, I'm most struck by the fact that this tiny untouched town manages to feel so sophisticated, but without the slightest bit of pretension," says Lyons, a non-skier, who imbues her own studied-yet-disheveled style into the brand's image. And for this very reason, Lyons knows she can't curate the 2,800-square-foot J.Crew at the Mountain store—whose neighbors include Fendi and Louis Vuitton—with the same mix of merchandise you'd see when flipping

Jenna Lyons

through the pages of the latest catalogue. Instead, she and her team take into consideration the Aspen shopper—from the second-home owner to the skier on holiday to the year-round local. "Nothing is too seasonally specific or too urban," explains Lyons. "We'll always stock a freshened-up coat or a cozy sweater, because those are items you'll crave in Aspen." Instead of seeing eight of the same T-shirt, you'll see one or two. That gives the walnut-hued space more of a boutiquey vibe.

Under Lyons, the brand has cultivated a kind of affordable luxury that doesn't sacrifice quality or style. (To wit: The ultra-fine cashmere sweaters that line the

> *"We'll always stock items you'll crave in Aspen, like a cozy sweater."*

shelves are made from the same mills as—shhh—Loro Piana). Earlier this year, J. Crew converted the store's subterranean space from menswear to women's. "In this market in particular, we found that the men came to Aspen to ski, not necessarily shop," she explains, "whereas a lot of our female clientele were skiing in the morning and then came to us to shop in the afternoon." This has already proven a wise move, since the female customers have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 169

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF J.CREW

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Only Connect

Fantasy relationship-building at the ultimate intellectual swap meet: the Aspen Ideas Festival

BUZZ idea

You may think that the Aspen Ideas Festival (July 5-11) is all about high-minded discussion. After all, the six-year-old festival bills itself as an "exploration of some of the most important ideas and pressing issues we face." And the experience of attending all those plenary sessions, tutorials, evening exchanges, and book-signings can be a life-changing intellectual experience. But let's be honest: what is the real draw at this smarty-pants summit? Isn't it the chance to hobnob, rub elbows, and generally breathe the same thin air as the big shots – celebs from the worlds of commerce, politics, and the arts and sciences? As the festival website promises, attendees who invest in a $4,900 pass for the seven heady days will "meet other concerned and curious participants on the footpath, over lunch, and at the coffee bar."

This is the true value of the festival, then: not insight, but info – the contact info you punch into your Blackberry after you swap ideas with one of those "curious participants on the footpath."

Herewith, with apologies to muckety.com, a "relationship map" of some of the new connections we'd like to see come out of the Ideas Festival. As of press time, all here were expected to attend. Will they actually connect as shown?

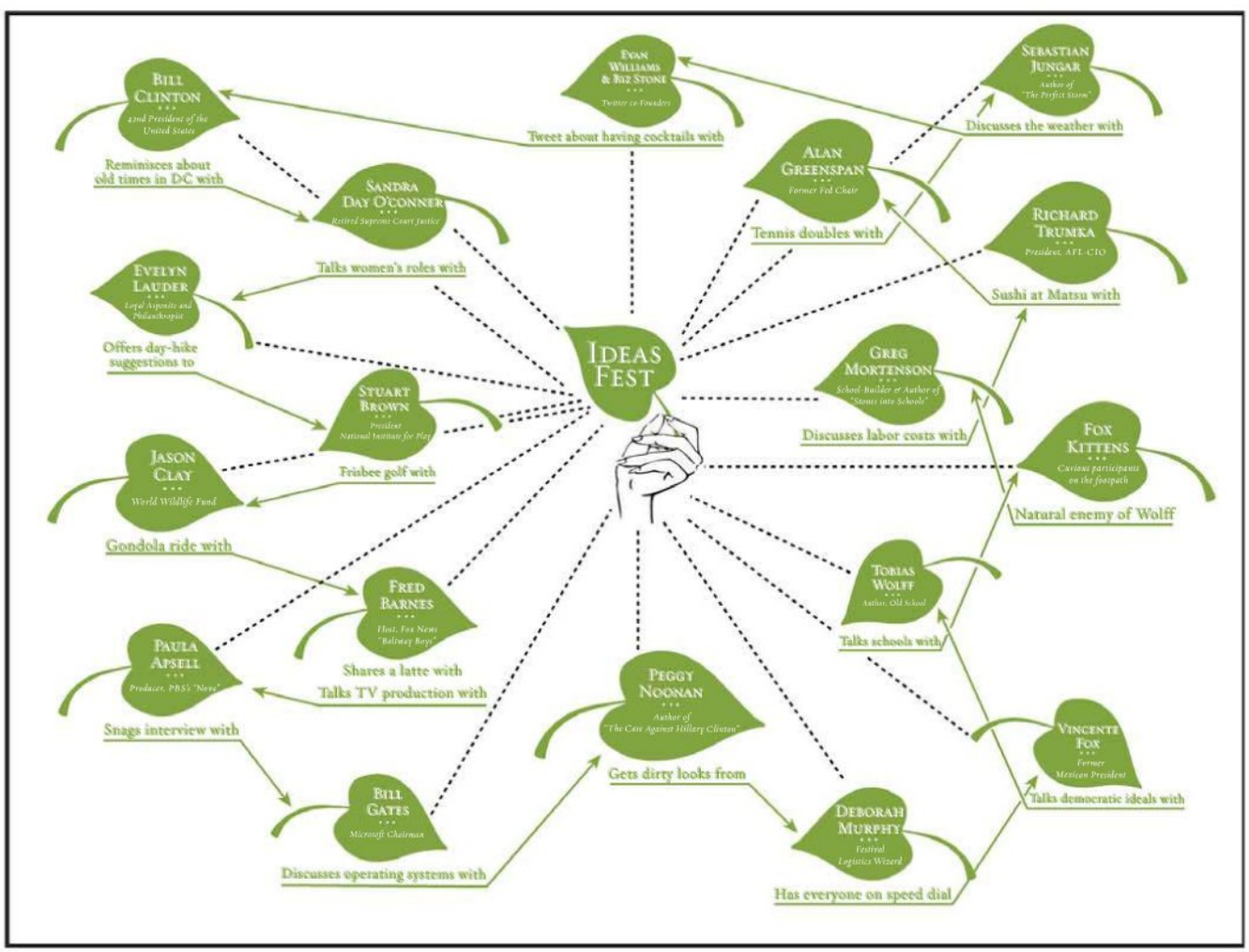

ILLUSTRATION: LAUREN RIBACK

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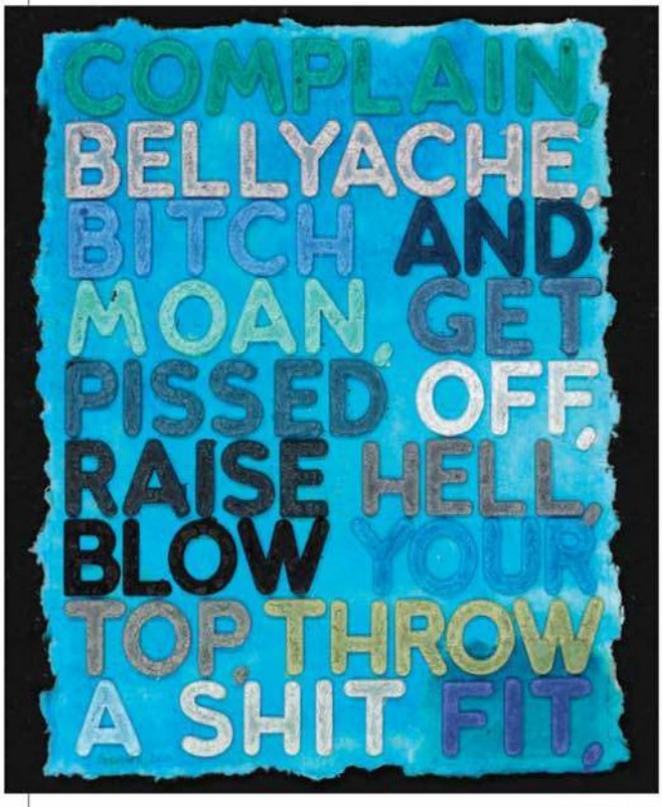
Robert Mapplethorpe

Baldwin Gallery

The late Robert Mapplethorpe was one of the 20th century's most influential photographers—and one of the most notorious. A not-to-be-missed exhibit this summer at the Baldwin Gallery reveals a little-known aspect of his work: photographs of horses. The series was commissioned by one of Mapplethorpe's major collectors in the mid-'80s and has not been shown until this exhibition. While the photos differ from Mapplethorpe's usual subject matter—artists, flowers, musicians, socialites, and pornographic film stars—this body of work makes the viewer appreciate once again his profound, exquisite eye for light, form, and shadow. On view July 6–25. ***209 S. Galena St., 970-920-9797. baldwingallery.com***



Mel Bochner

Galerie Maximillian

Albert Sanford's Galerie Maximillian is taking leaps in a new direction this summer. The show "Spots, Words & Sounds" features five global artists with very distinct techniques. The always provocative and controversial British artist Damien Hirst provides the "spots" of the exhibit. Hirst's portion will include 14 original (nude) woodcuts. The "words" of the exhibit are supplied by Richard Prince, Mel Bochner, and Vik Muniz. Unique and entertaining, Prince's Jokes series showcases a collection of paintings with risqué lines strewn across them. Bochner is so now: His work focuses on communication breakdowns, hidden agendas, and the "abuse of language" with joke panels and monoprints. Muniz, beloved for his drawings created using nontraditional mediums (earthworms, chocolate syrup), is exhibiting two word-based pieces. Artist and composer Christian Marclay will be supplying the "sounds" as he produces unexpected effects by manipulating records, cassettes, and speakers. Exhibition runs June 25–July 25. ***602 E. Cooper Ave., 970-925-6100. galeriemax.com***

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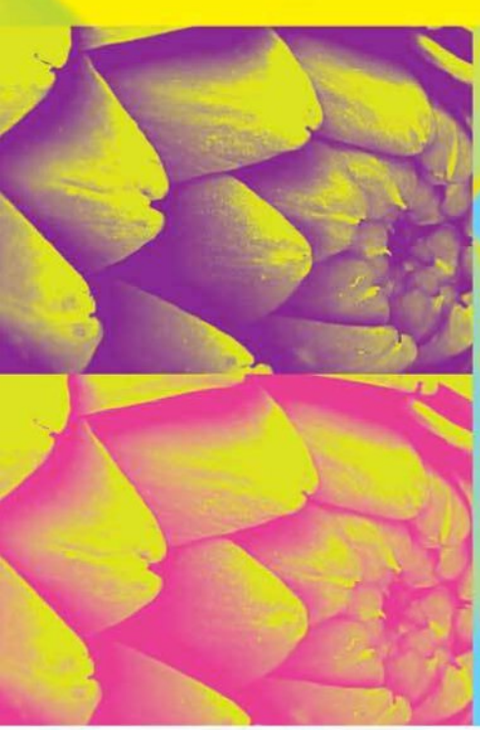
GREENALICIOUS



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Left: Composer Philip Glass. The U.S. premiere of his *Violin Concerto No. 2*, "American Four Seasons," will be performed in Aspen this summer by violinist Robert McDuffie

Below: Vaslav Nijinsky performing to Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*

Our Music, Our Reflection

This summer's Aspen Music Festival looks back 10, 100, and 200 years **BY ALAN FLETCHER**

THE 19TH CENTURY OPENED with a musical bang, the 20th with a musical explosion. And the 21st? This summer, the Aspen Music Festival and School looks at the opening decades of the 19th and 20th centuries and poses a question: What will history say about the 10 years of musical progress we have just seen?

In the early years of the 19th century, Beethoven achieved his mature style and ushered in the great Romantic era. Romanticism in the arts was itself a reaction to other sweeping changes, especially the profound political upheavals of the French and American revolutions. The role of the artist in society changed, and one of the primary change agents was Beethoven. In the years that followed, his heroic stance and dramatic music were the touchstone for every composer.

BUZZ arts

At the beginning of the 20th century, composers such as Stravinsky, Mahler, Debussy, Ravel, Strauss, and Schoenberg detonated the Romantic style and ushered in modernism. Seen from a distance, this may have been a reaction to the impending dissolution of European world dominance and the emergence of other cultures. World's Fairs such as the Paris Expositions brought awareness of Asian and African art and music in a way that transformed the Eurocentric traditions; at the same time, a rapidly growing interest in folk art and folk music transformed the classical culture. Love it or hate it, modernism defines the artworks that followed.

We are too close to the first years of the 21st century to know how they will look to Festival planners a hundred years from now, so any questions about the musical significance of our own decade will remain unanswered. But throughout the summer, we will present important works from the past 10 years and pose the question of whether there are changes afoot that compare to the magical opening years of the past two centuries. It may be that the intersections of jazz, a world pop culture, classical music, and the all-powerful Internet will create defining new styles that will dominate the future. Or not.

PHOTOS: COURTESY AMFS

New at Anderson Ranch

IT'S UNANIMOUS! After an eight-month search, Barbara Bloemink is now the executive director at Anderson Ranch Arts Center. Bloemink is a very well-respected figure in the art world, having had top curatorial roles in museums such as the Guggenheim Hermitage and the Smithsonian National Design Museum, just to name a couple. She has been curator of dozens of international exhibitions, a lecturer on contemporary art and design, and the author of several books.

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Chill Out

The Florodora cocktail redefines refreshing. Its freshly squeezed lime juice mixed with local raspberries enhance a mixture of gin and ginger ale. The name was taken from a successful Broadway musical comedy that opened in 1899 and ran for more than 500 performances. After each performance, the irresistible Florodora Girls would go out to relax and enjoy a cocktail that the bar named after them.

PHOTO: THADDEUS HARDEN

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A Peach of a Corner Café

CAFÉ SOCIETY MAKES A COMEBACK *By Tom Passavant*

BLISS: A reimagined BLT with poached egg

"We looked at this space and said, 'We can't bear to see it empty,' " says David Roth. He's referring to the sunny northwest corner of Galena and Hopkins that formerly housed Zélé café but sat dark until last December. It was at that point that Roth, a chef who once owned Paisano's, and his partners, Lisa Haisfield and Tracy Eggleston, stepped in, and the long-time locals reopened–not to mention reimagined–the place as Peach's Corner Café. Within hours of unlocking the doors, the café had a gaggle of officers from Aspen's nearby police station checking out the pastries, a very good omen. The crowds quickly followed.

Peach's has succeeded not only with bright, cheerful decor and friendly service but by taking an unusually open-minded approach to its food. "We wanted to showcase all the talented food producers in this valley–the bakers, the makers of everything from granola to salad dressing," says Roth.

Not only does Peach's use local ingredients in its prepared dishes, such as its own breakfast sausages and Aspen's Kiri Devi granola, but it also offers a wide array of locally made food for takeout, from Kim Cohen's Raw to Radiant ceviches to their delectable Drizzle Bars.

Breakfast has everything from granola with honey and Greek yogurt to Belgian waffles and a spectacular open-faced sandwich spread with peach butter and topped with a poached egg, applewood-smoked bacon, arugula, heirloom tomatoes, and shaved Parmesan. Lunchtime highlights include the popular soup-and-salad specials ("You can have a terrific meal for under $10," says Roth), plus a kale salad with roasted root vegetables and goat cheese, chickpea flatbreads, empanadas, and more.

But it's the pastry counter that draws the most oohs and aahs: muffins and fruit tarts from local companies Midland Baking, Sweet Life, Louis Swiss, Franck Thirion, and Upper Crust Bakery, and cupcakes that are particularly festive as well as delicious. Even some of the coffee is locally roasted–at Steve Johnson's Back Alley Coffee.

Peach's Corner Café, 121 S. Galena St., 970-544-9866

PHOTO: JASON DEWEY

Second Helping

IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY, Hestia is the goddess of the hearth. What better name, then, for a restaurant that nurtures body and soul with generous portions of big-flavored Mediterranean food?

"Being Mediterranean means we can go in lots of different directions," says **chef and co-owner Stacey Baldock,** "so people can feel comfortable ordering anything from a gyros and a beer to a great steak and a really nice wine."

Feeding a roomful of happy customers isn't the only thing that pleases Baldock about her new venture. "The original Hestia was up in Basalt. Hestia closed five years ago, and I wasn't sure how many people would remember us. Turns out there are plenty." Many of them still swear by the excellent falafel, the chicken souvlaki, and the array of appetizers and finger foods. Weekly specials like the cinnamon-scented lamb moussaka sell out every Thursday.

Taking over the big, sleek space on Carbondale's Main Street formerly occupied by Ella could have been daunting to some restaurateurs, but Baldock and her **business partner, Pagge Wheatley** (who also is responsible for the desserts and the well-priced wine list), seem totally energized by the challenge. The bar, a massive slab of four-inch thick granite, has become a favorite local hangout since opening in December. Weekend brunch is back, and the big patio, complete with firepit, should be popular this summer.

"The best thing is getting a second chance at something you love," says Baldock. "I can really savor it this time around."

Hestia, 348 Main St., Carbondale, 970-704-0377

LOOK OUT: CP BURGER SLATED TO OPEN THIS SUMMER AT THE SILVER CIRCLE ICE RINK...

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SECRET INGREDIENT: Jalapeño pepper in the crab meat

DISH D U JOUR

Taking the Cake

"These crab cakes have been one of our most popular prepared dishes for at least seven years now," says Epicurious proprietor Chris Norvell. Not that there isn't plenty of competition in the takeout counter at this compact, always-busy purveyor of fine foods in the City Market plaza in El Jebel. "The trick to great crab cakes is to keep them mostly crab meat—no fillers," he adds. "If there's a secret to our recipe, it's the addition of a little bit of fresh jalapeno pepper—we use it instead of the more common red bell pepper."

Serve them atop some fresh local salad greens, with remoulade sauce, and you've got a perfect light summer meal. Uncork a crisp Sauvignon Blanc or a Torrontes from Argentina and it only gets better. *—Tom Passavant*

EPICURIOUS CRAB CAKE* (Serves 2 to 4)

1 lb.	can of cooked lump crabmeat
1	lemon, juiced and zested
1	jalapeno pepper, seeded, ribbed and finely diced
1/2	red onion, finely diced
1 rib	celery, finely diced
1 tbsp.	garlic, minced
1 tsp.	fresh dill, chopped
1/3 cup	mayonnaise
2 tbsp.	Dijon mustard
1/4 cup	panko (Japanese-style bread crumbs)
	sea salt and freshly cracked black pepper, to taste
	pinch of cayenne, cumin and paprika, to taste
	olive oil or butter

DIRECTIONS: Saute the jalapeno, onion, celery, and garlic in oil or butter for a few minutes, until translucent. Cool the vegetable mixture thoroughly.

Gently fold all of the ingredients together, adjusting the seasoning as necessary. Portion the mix to the desired size; four-ounce cakes work nicely.

Saute the crab cakes in olive oil or butter until both sides are golden brown, being mindful to turn them gently. If necessary, once they are brown, place them in a warm oven to heat the cakes through. Serve immediately.

CHEF'S TIP: It's crucial not to overmix a crab cake. You want to toss everything together as lightly as possible—just enough to blend the ingredients.

** Serve with Epicurious's house-made remoulade sauce. For recipe, go to myepicurious.com.*

PHOTO: JASON DEWEY

DISH

Tidbits from the Aspen food scene

WELCOME 520 GRILL!

» Just in time for the Food & Wine Classic comes Aspen's newest eatery, 520 Grill. This new restaurant is the brainchild of local and longtime chefs, **Troy Selby** and **Wheaton Augur**. Selby, former head chef at Cantina, and Augur, former Conundrum Catering chef, say the inspiration for 520 came from various roadtrips they've taken and the cuisine they've encountered along the way. In hopes of creating a menu where "the Baja peninsula meets Colorado," the takeout/dine-in joint dishes up burgers, salads, and Southwestern fare. ***Fat City Plaza, 520 E. Cooper St.***

THE SHOW GOES ON

» With one season under its belt, the newly opened restaurant **Ellina** is already undergoing big- time changes. Former executive chef **Dena Marino** has left Aspen for warmer climates and relinquished her title to Ellina's sous chef, **Miguel Diaz**. Diaz, a longtime local with years of experience in some of Aspen's top restaurants—D19, Ajax Tavern, and Mirabella—will continue to serve worldly cuisine with an emphasis on fresh fish and summer ingredients. The patio will also offer a lighter "social menu" perfect for an afternoon of leisure. The restaurant will also be under the helm of new general manager **Stephan Fyock**, a former restaurant owner and chef in New York City.

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THE BUZZ

NUMEROUS FOOD AND WINE FESTIVALS have sprung up over the years, but the Food & Wine Classic in Aspen is the original, with an authentic history and personality all its own. *Food & Wine* editor in chief Dana Cowin and publisher Christina Grdovic preside over this annual pilgrimage to the Rockies, now in its 28th year. Culinary thrills include meeting celebrities and rising-star chefs; cooking demos; winetastings; book signings; private parties; and plenty of serendipitous moments. José Andrés, Mario Batali, David Chang, Tom Colicchio, Giada De Laurentiis, Thomas Keller, and Claudine Pepin are just a sampling of the stars on hand.

Perfect Burger and Wine Pairings

WINE EXPERTS PICK THE IDEAL WINES FOR THE VALLEY'S BEST BURGERS.

By Linda Hayes

Sliders from The Little Nell's Montagna.

IN THE "Burger Bonanza Wines" smackdown showcased by *Food & Wine* magazine Wine Editor Ray Isle, attendees vote on which of a selection of wines go best with a trio of burgers prepared by Montagna chef Ryan Hardy.

To bring the concept home, we asked a group of local restaurant wine gurus to pair a wine with the burger on their menu. Here's what they told us.

(What gets Isle's vote? "I'm a bacon cheeseburger kind of guy," he says. "To go with it, I like wines with oomph and spice, like Syrah and Zinfandel.")

MONTAGNA

Burger by chef Ryan Hardy: The Milagro Ranch Grass-Fed Cheese-

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burger–a half-pound beef burger with applewood-smoked bacon; your choice of Vermont cheddar, Roquefort, American, Pepper Jack, or Gruyère; and lettuce and tomato, on a homemade brioche bun.
Wine pick by wine director Jonathan Pullis: 2006 Betts & Scholl "The O.G." Barossa Grenache from Australia–"a fun, delicious, well-balanced wine with great red fruit and peppered strawberry that's quite quaffable with Ryan's leaner burger."

AJAX TAVERN

Burger by chef Jim Butchart: The Ajax Double Cheeseburger–a pair of three-ounce grilled Milagro Ranch grass-fed beef patties, each topped with a slice of American cheese, served with sliced onion, vine-ripe tomatoes, shredded romaine, and caramelized-onion

"I like wines with oomph and spice, like Syrah and Zinfandel."

aioli on a griddled Louis Swiss sourdough bun.
Wine pick by food-and-beverage director Sabato Sagaria: 2005 Giacomo Conterno, Barbera d'Alba, Cascina Francia, from Italy's Piedmont–"a lighter, refreshing red that highlights the subtleties of the American cheese without overpowering it."

39 DEGREES

Burger by chef Shawn Lawrence: The 39-Degree Hamburger–seven-ounce all-natural Angus beef (seasoned with salt, pepper, and duck fat) with house made mayo; Cheddar, Swiss, or blue cheese; lettuce, tomato, red onion, and if you like, a truffle fried egg, on a Louis Swiss egg bun.
Wine pick by food-and-beverage director and mixologist Denis Coté: 2007 Trefethen Double T from Napa, California–"a medium-bodied Bordeaux blend with fragrant aromas of plums, blackberry jam, black pepper, clove, and toasted oak; flavors of blackberries, raspberries, and currants; and rich chocolate on the finish."

IL MULINO

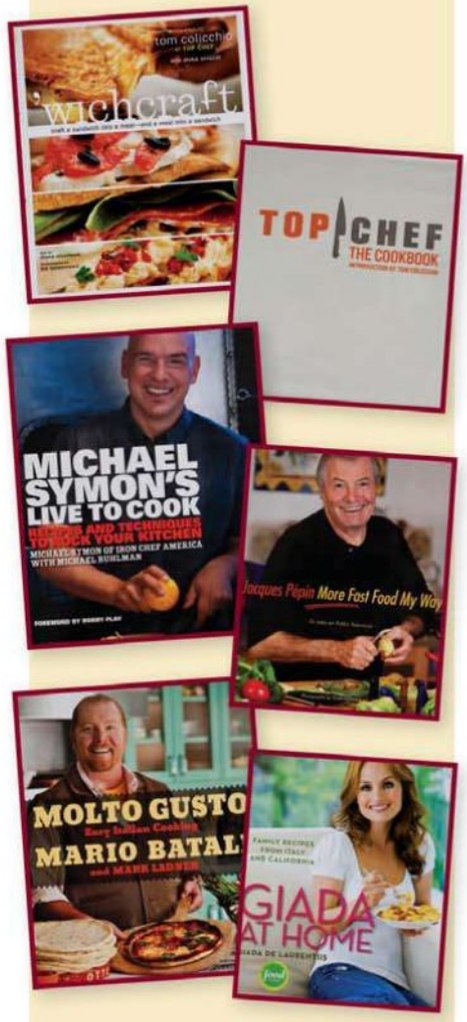
Burger by chef Gianluca Sciagata: The Tuscan Burger–an eight-ounce Kobe beef burger with pancetta, Fontina, and lettuce and tomato, on a brioche roll.
Wine pick by manager Laurel Margerum, formerly of the Wine Cask in Santa Barbara: 2004 Col d'Orcia Brunello di Montalcino–"a classically perfect lean, dry wine from Tuscany that cuts through the succulent Kobe."

SIX89

Burger by chef Mark Fischer: The Milagro Ranch Burger–eight-ounce grilled, grass-fed Milagro Ranch beef from whole shoulders (trimmed and ground in-house), topped with a choice of cheese, roasted tomatoes, bacon, pancetta, mushrooms, or fried eggs (from their chicken coop), on a house-made egg bun.
Wine pick by sommelier/general manager Bill Bentley: 2006 Stanger Vineyards Reserve Tempranillo from Paso Robles, California–"a plush, rich wine with loads of black fruit, soft tannins on the finish, and vibrant acidity; a perfect foil for Mark's ground beef sandwich."

BOOK SHELF

Here are our favorite books that we'll be cooking from this summer



'Wichcraft: Craft a Sandwich into a Meal – and a Meal into a Sandwich, Tom Colicchio and Sisha Ortúzar.

Top Chef: The Cookbook, Edited by Liana Krissoff and Leda Scheintaub.

Live To Cook: Recipes and Techniques to Rock your Kitchen, Michael Symon.

More Fast Food My Way, Jacques Pépin.

Molto Gusto: Easy Italian Cooking, Mario Batali and Mark Ladner.

Giada At Home: Family Recipes from Italy and California, Giada De Laurentiis.

PHOTO: COURTESY MONTAGNA; JEREMY SWANSON

LOOKING FORWARD TO: TASTING GREAT GREEK WINES THIS SUMMER ...

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Kitchen Confidential

SPICY TIPS ON CREATING YOUR OWN MEXICAN PANTRY. *By Linda Hayes*

WE'RE ALL FIRED UP about chef Rick Bayless's Food & Wine Classic seminar, "Spicy Mexican Flavors." If you can't attend, don't worry; below are some of this celeb chef's spicy tips and essentials. Rick, whose creds include Chicago's famed Frontera Grill, Topolobampo, and the hot new XOCO café, as well as a batch of award-winning Mexican cookbooks and the long-running PBS cooking show *Mexico—One Plate at a Time*, has given us his pick of items essential to great Mexican cooking and shares a salsa recipe from his upcoming book, *Fiesta at Rick's*. Get cookin'.

Chef Rick Bayless

RICK'S PICKS: ESSENTIAL PANTRY ITEMS

Fresh chiles—serrano and poblano. (Tip: Always choose chiles with unblemished skin and store them in the refrigerator.)

Dried chiles—ancho, pasilla, guajillo, and chipotle—in adobo. (Tip: Never buy dried chiles that are brittle or crumbling; dried-out chiles have little flavor.)

Fresh herbs—cilantro and epazote. (Tip: Dampen several layers of paper towels, spread the herb branches in a single layer, then roll up the whole thing and place in a plastic bag to store.)

Spices—Mexican oregano, Mexican cinnamon, and achiote paste. (Tip: You'll find all of these in a well-stocked Mexican grocery store.*)

Dairy—crema or crème fraîche, *queso fresco*, and *queso anejo*. (Tip: I use these items as a treat—a sort of gilding the lily, if you will.)

Vegetables—avocados, tomatillos, white and red onions, and, in season, fresh tomatoes. (Tip: Ripe avocados usually can't be found in regular grocery stores; look for them in your local Mexican market.*)

Muir Glen fire-roasted tomatoes, canned. (Tip: Fire-roasting gives the richness and traditional Mexican flavor I love.)

Black beans, canned. (Tip: These are great for fixing a really quick dinner. I add garlic and mash them up with an old-fashioned potato masher.)

Medium-grain rice (a household staple).

Fruits—limes. (Tip: Use them to give guacamole, salsa, etc., the zing it needs.)

Imagine brand chicken broth. (Tip: I fell in love with this broth. In the restaurant, we of course make our own—but for your pantry, it is the best.)

Meats—chorizo, chicken thighs, and pork shoulder. (Tip: Get to know your butcher; venture out into your neighborhood Mexican market.*)

Fresh masa or masa harina. (Tip: Making your own tortillas and tamales can seem daunting, so set aside some time to play around with these batters and doughs. Making a quick quesadilla from a fresh-made tortilla—there is nothing like it!)

RICK'S TIP ABOUT MEXICAN MARKETS:

Get to know your local Mexican market or grocery. Don't be afraid. Once you go in, you will feel comfortable, and you will be able to find so many ingredients for everyday Mexican cooking.

*Around the Valley, top spots to pick up pantry and grocery items include Tortilleria La Roca, Valley Meats, and Teresa's Market, all in Carbondale. City Market and Clark's Market both have Mexican food sections. Forage weekly farmers' markets in Aspen, Basalt, and Carbondale for fresh produce.

PHOTO: COURTESY WW NORTON

We love: FOOD & WINE's GROW FOR GOOD, its national initiative that raises money to support local farms and sustainable agriculture,

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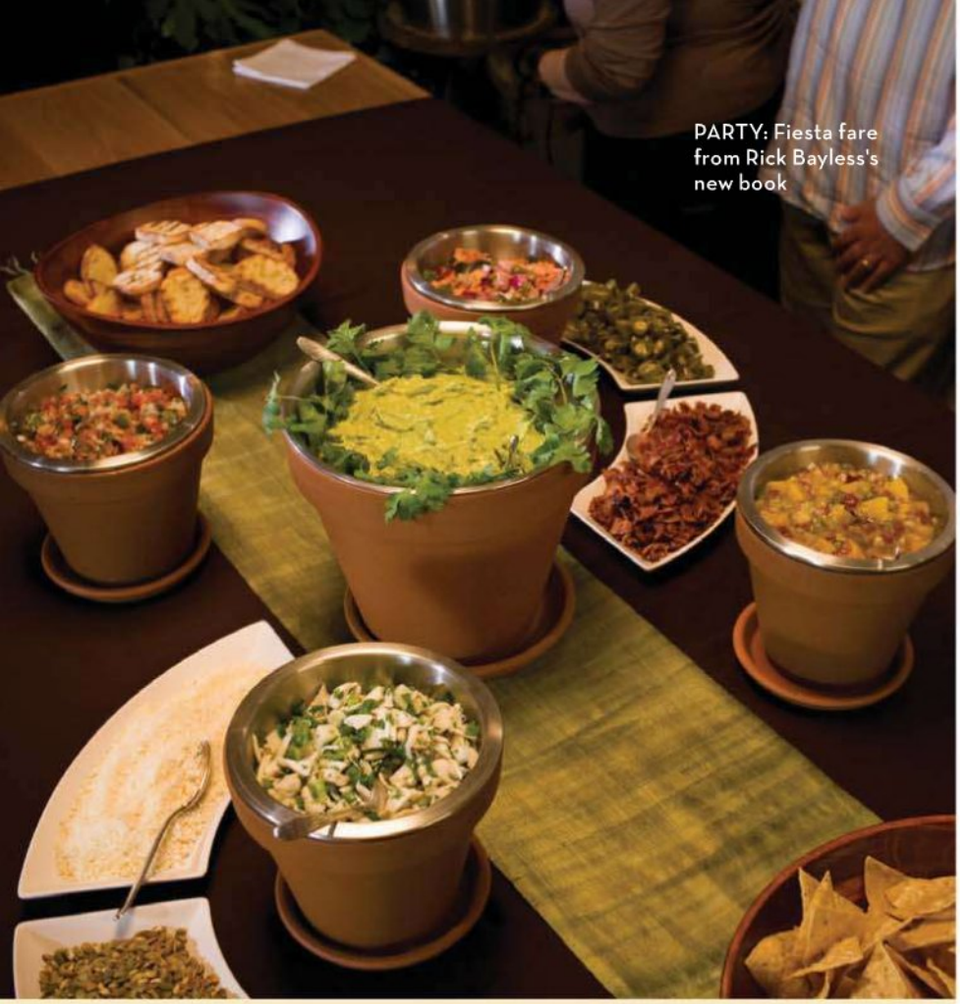

PARTY: Fiesta fare from Rick Bayless's new book

ORANGE-TOMATILLO SALSA

Salsa Verde con Naranja

Makes 1 1/2 cups, serving 12 as part of a party

INGREDIENTS

8 ounces (about 4 medium) tomatillos, husked and rinsed
1/2 small red onion, chopped into 1/4-inch pieces
1 or 2 canned chipotle chiles en adobo, removed from the canning sauce, seeded and finely chopped
2 small seedless oranges

DIRECTIONS

Set a medium (8-inch) nonstick (or foil-lined) skillet over medium-high heat. Lay in half of the tomatillos cut-side down. When they are browned, 3 or 4 minutes, flip and brown the other side. Remove from the pan and cool.

Scoop the remaining tomatillos into a food processor and pulse several times until evenly chopped—no pieces should be bigger than 1/4 inch. Scrape into a medium bowl. Scoop the onion into a strainer, rinse under cold tap water, shake off the excess and add to the bowl along with the chipotles. Without washing the processor, process the roasted tomatillos until smooth. Stir into the fresh tomatillo mixture.

Using a small knife, cut the peel from the oranges. Cut sections (supremes) from the oranges by cutting between the white membranes to release segments with no white pith or membrane. Cut each segment into 3 or 4 pieces and stir them into the tomatillo mixture. Taste and season with salt, usually 1/2 teaspoon. Cover and refrigerate.

From Rick's new book: *Fiesta at Rick's*

PHOTO: PAUL ELLEDGE

Richard Betts on Reserve Tastings

A CHAT WITH Richard Betts, Master Sommelier, wine educator, winemaker extraordinaire, and the new director of Reserve Wine Tastings for the 2010 Food & Wine Classic ... *By Linda Hayes*

... on what makes the Reserve Tastings so special.

"Here's a chance to enjoy great wines that you might not ordinarily get to taste alongside the family winemaker, who has been doing it forever. It's a chance to learn about people and places as well as geology, geography, history, and all the intellectual values that go into wine-making, that ultimately separate wine from every other alcoholic beverage. That's pretty compelling."

... on this year's Reserve Tastings.

"The Reserve series has a long history of awesome wines, many times from long-standing blue-chip producers of substantial volume. In creating this year's program, it was important to me to bring to the table some of the smaller producers, whom we find very special and hold as the apogee of whatever varietal they produce. The chance to show those wines to a lot of people is exciting."

... on some Reserve Tasting highlights.

"Jean-Marc Roulot [of Domaine Roulot] and Christophe Roumier [of Domaine Georges Roumier] are two guys I consider at the absolute top of their game in Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, respectively—from little tiny domaines in Burgundy—that most people haven't had the chance to taste. And Jean-Louis Chave: Chave has been making wine in Hermitage, father to son, in one place, since 1481. Hermitage is not really known on these shores, but in the pantheon of the greatest wines produced anywhere in the world, and by whom, Chave would be in anyone's top five."

... on how anyone can learn about, and taste, great wines.

"The overarching idea is that wine should be about a dialogue. Getting to a place where wine is about a dialogue—and not an adversarial situation—with a sommelier, or a guy in wine shop, is an important first step to enjoying it more. Go say to Gary at Grape & Grain, for instance, that you love the taste of the wines of Jean-Louis Chave and want to understand them better. The guy or woman who puts the wine on the shelf, or who writes a list [for a restaurant], is presumably passionate about it. It's really important to open ourselves to them. Say: 'Hey, this is what I'd like to understand better. How do I get there?'"

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Wine collectors will soon get a helping hand.

So Much Wine, So Little Time

IWM CELLARS FINDS A HOME IN ASPEN

By Ted Loos

WINE COLLECTING is thought of as a lofty exercise—all that swirling and sipping, not to mention commenting on those hints of blackberry and leather hidden within a precocious structure. But there's a pedestrian side to this hobby if you're going to do it seriously: cataloguing, storing, and organizing all those expensive bottles. The task gets even hazier after an evening of, ahem, hearty wine appreciation.

Sergio Esposito, the owner of the well-known Italian Wine Merchants retail shop in New York City, is now bringing some of his two decades of experience to the problem with the creation of IWM Cellars (iwmcellars.com), a wine-collector services company that has its worldwide debut in Aspen this month. Appropriately enough for a high-end wine-collector service, it will be headquartered in the lobby of the famed Little Nell, one of the town's undisputed social hubs.

"We want to make wine fun by taking the work out of it."

"We want to make wine fun by taking the work out of it," says Esposito, author of the memoir *Passion on the Vine*—required reading for any Aspenite who wants a sense of Esposito's palpable love of the grape.

IWM Cellars is starting off with two full-time Aspen employees (a number that will surely grow) to help clients like PIMCO investment guru William Powers do the dirty work of managing a collection: on-site inventory and physical organization; online tracking, tasting notes, and "drinkability alerts"; even valuations based on the current wine market. Though IWM Cellars doesn't sell wine, its Cellar Masters will help you build a brand-new cellar in cooperation with Styles - Kitchen & Bath Studio.

And Esposito has more on his mind than just commerce. "Aspen is so charitable during the Food & Wine Classic and other big events, but it can be like that all year round," he says. Through its small, exclusive tastings for clients, IWM Cellars will be emphasizing philanthropy, encouraging collectors to donate some of their gems to special auctions that benefit their favorite worthy causes—and also to bid on each other's lots. Let the appreciation begin!

PHOTO: COURTESY OF IWM

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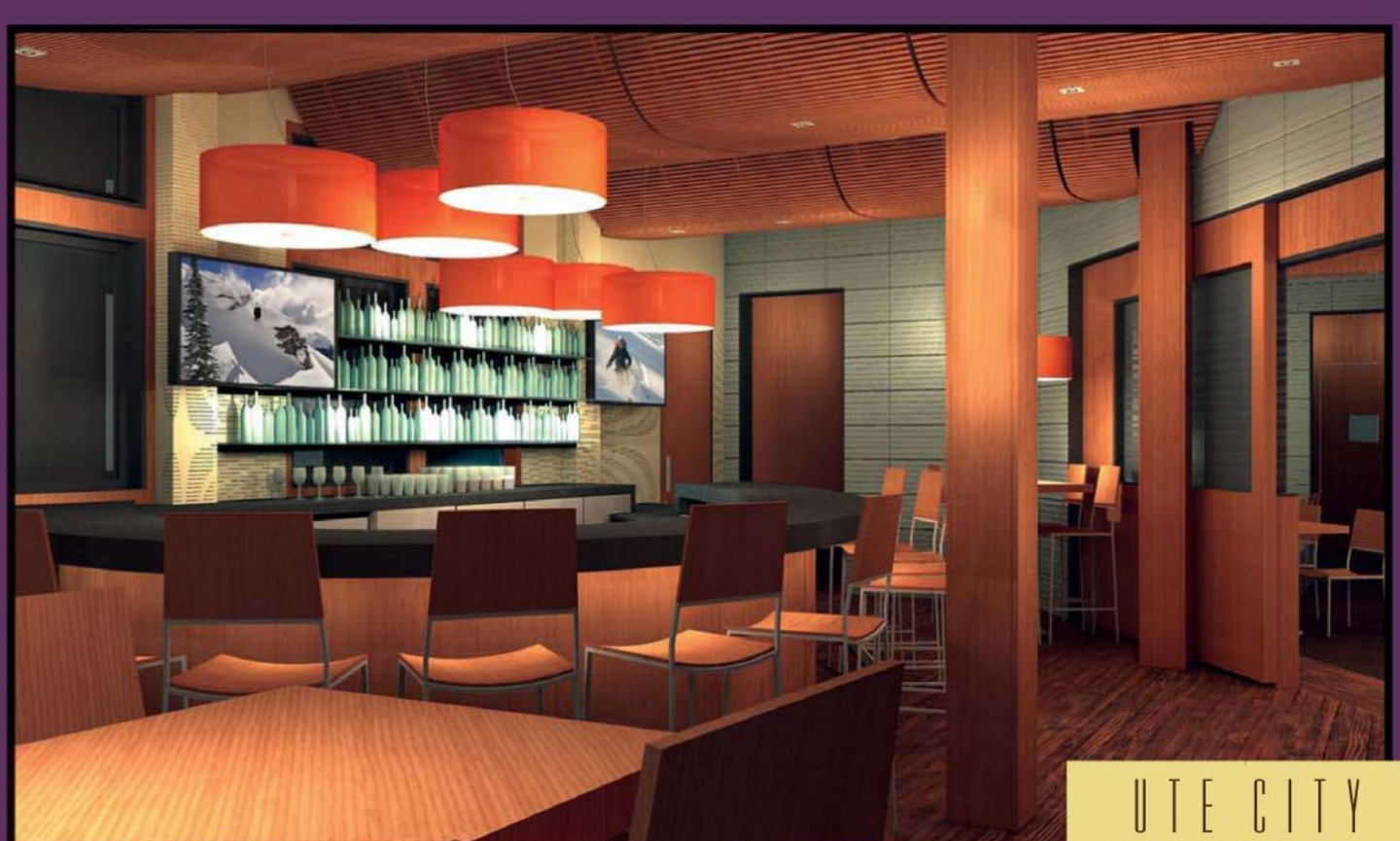

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Say Grilled Cheese

THE ULTIMATE COMFORT FOOD GROWS UP *By Laura Werlin*

The author and Chef Hardy

Even Pavlov didn't know the power of grilled cheese. If he had, he would have gone straight for the sandwich instead of the bell to evoke the cascade of visceral responses that follow the phrase's mere utterance, including hunger pangs, salivary glands gone wild, and an irrepressible smile–all the standard reactions.

Say "grilled cheese" and memories of a childhood indulgence, of the first cooking lesson from Mom or Dad, of a bowl of tomato soup, come wafting into consciousness. The two words strung together also bring to mind seductive images of the sound of bread sizzling and crackling as it makes its transition from soft and pillowy to a butter-crisped crunch. It teases with anticipation, knowing that as the bread turns golden brown, the strands of cheese nestled within are ever so surely giving way to their melted glory.

This past March, Montagna executive chef Ryan Hardy and I grated cheese, buttered bread, and griddled sandwiches to create a first-ever event at The Little Nell celebrating grilled cheese sandwiches. A down-home occasion like this at the five-Diamond hotel may seem like a disconnect, but grilled cheese is one of those things that instantly levels the playing field and joins people by virtue of their collective memory of the simple sandwich. At the same time, it turns out that the staple of our childhood has grown up.

Versions of grilled cheese can be found in some of the best restaurants in America, including Montagna, while others appear in the more likely settings of diners such as Boogie's Diner, and bars such as Bentley's. Still others are being dispensed from trucks on the move around Los Angeles and San Francisco, among other places. There's even a Grilled Cheese Invitational, held in Los Angeles during National Grilled Cheese Month (April), which attracts a capacity crowd of nearly 10,000 people. The grilled cheese sandwich has become the culinary equivalent of the little black dress. It can go anywhere and is found almost everywhere.

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PHOTOS: TOMAS ZUCCARENO

YUM!

The grilled cheese sandwich is like a little black dress: appropriate anywhere, anytime

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INGREDIENTS
Butter, butter, butter makes any grilled cheese better.

Theories abound about the history of this sandwich, and terminology makes tracking down that history even harder. Even the words we use to describe it (two slices of buttered, mayonnaise-slathered, or oil-brushed bread encasing cheese and cooked on the stovetop) vary depending on the region of the country. Grilled cheese is also known as "toasted cheese." The two are identical, but a toasted cheese sandwich can also mean something else. While it, too, may be cooked in a pan, it is just one slice of bread with cheese on top. It then gets a brief stint under the broiler to melt the cheese–or else the cheese-topped bread is cooked in the oven face-up.

KRAFT PLAYED NO SMALL ROLE IN OUR AFFECTION FOR GRILLED CHEESE.

To add to the confusion, in England, where a 17th-century precursor to the modern grilled cheese sandwich has been documented, the word "grilled" actually means "broiled" in our vernacular. That's because, over there, a broiler is called a grill.

What we do know is that Kraft played no small role in our affection for grilled cheese today. Their single-wrapped slices were the exact size of sandwich bread and were therefore instrumental in helping make cheese sandwiches, grilled or otherwise, simple to put together. *Easy, fast,* and *satisfying* have always been the foundation of food trends in America, and the single-wrapped slices and the sandwiches they formed were no exception.

Grilled cheese has unquestionably come a long way, although how to interpret "long" is subjective. Consider this: In 2008, the professional winner of the Grilled Cheese Invitational (there are both amateur and professional categories) won by constructing a sandwich of short ribs and Taleggio (a pungent, creamy northern Italian cheese) on raisin bread with an apricot-caper schmear. So successful was this sandwich on the bar menu of the chef's Los Angeles restaurant, The Foundry on Melrose, that he is now about to open a takeout grilled cheese place nearby.

Or take last year's amateur winner in the, *ahem,* Kama Sutra category (cheese and meat). The creator combined Brie and Roquefort cheeses, topped them with braised pear (huh?), and followed this with rabbit confit that had been immersed in duck fat for a week. The whole kit 'n' caboodle was then placed between slices of brioche that had been slathered with Cointreau marmalade. Say what you will.

As for me, I won't be grilling quite such daring creations at this year's Food & Wine Classic, but I will push the envelope by introducing attendees to Nutella and goat cheese as an awesome grilled cheese combination. I'll also be showcasing little-known North American cheeses, including one from Basalt's own Avalanche Cheese Company. And this being Food & Wine, I'll be matching the sandwiches with wine, not with their more obvious companion, beer. Wine and grilled cheese? Absolutely.

Whatever anyone's favorite version of grilled cheese is (and almost everybody has one), what's clear is that the very phrase conjures up vivid images of childhood, present-day indulgence, and–judging by the sandwich's newest incarnations–anticipation (or maybe trepidation) about what's to come. It almost doesn't matter what's in it. Just say "grilled cheese" and the response is immediate. Hungry yet?

PHOTO: TOMAS ZUCCARENO, COURTESY OF KRAFT

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Eating Local

22 FOLKS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Tom Passavant

JUST A FEW years ago, the idea of eating food produced in the Roaring Fork Valley and the surrounding region seemed almost absurd. The only things that appeared to grow here were cows, and even they got shipped off to distant feedlots to be fattened up before returning as steaks and chops.

Fast-forward to the summer of 2010. Our valley now supports a half-dozen farmers' markets every week, all of them featuring meat, vegetables, fruits, cheese, wine, and lots more–virtually all of it produced within 100 miles of the gondola. Restaurant menus proudly tout local ingredients and the people who grew them.

Behind this localtarian movement are a committed and growing band of farmers, ranchers, chefs, retailers, and passionate advocates for eating (and drinking) close to home. Here's an alphabetical list of 22 of them, some well-known, others far less so, who are making a difference in our local food scene.

BILL BENTLEY

Restaurant Six89, Carbondale
six89.com, 970/963-6890

Colorado's best wines, many of which hail from Delta County just over McClure Pass, have no bigger booster than Six89's low-key but passionate general manager and wine guru. Ask Bentley to pair something local with your roast lamb, and prepare to be surprised and impressed.

ROBIN BLANKENSHIP

Rock Bottom Ranch, Basalt
aspennature.org, 970/927-6760

A new emphasis on sustainable agriculture has led the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES) to make 115-acre Rock Bottom Ranch its midvalley hub. Kid- and family-oriented programs include ecological gardens, beekeeping, and chances to get up close and personal with the farm's chickens, cows, and goats. Future plans call for a greenhouse, a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm project, and "cow pooling" for buying meat.

KAM DAVIES

Basalt Sunday Market
basaltsundaymarket.com, 970/927-2321

There were skeptics galore when the Valley's latest farmers' market debuted last summer, but crowds of happy midvalley shoppers (and more than a few Aspenites) proved there was plenty of pent-up demand for local food. Market organizer Davies says this summer will bring more unique vendors and prepared foods.

JACK D'ORIO

Hillside Acres, Paonia
dorioshillsideacres@tds.net, 970/640-0614

The heart and soul of Aspen's farmers' market can be found at the southwest corner of Hunter and Hyman every Saturday. D'Orio, a former county extension agent and pioneer organic farmer, was instrumental in establishing the market in 1998; today he coaxes amazing flavors out of everything from broccoli and celery to 65 kinds of heirloom tomatoes.

BETSY FIFIELD (LEFT) AND MARDELL BURKHOLDER

Children's Health Foundation, Aspen
childrenshealthfoundation.net, 970/920-4750

Founded in Aspen by board president Fifield with Burkholder as executive director, CHF focuses on, among other things, changing school lunch to combat childhood obesity. Its Lunch for Life Program, with major funding through the Colorado Health Foundation, helps train school kitchen staff to cook from scratch and emphasizes the value of locally produced foods.

MARK FISCHER

Restaurant Six89, Carbondale
six89.com, 970/963-6890

When it comes to supporting Western Slope growers and turning their products into delicious meals, no chef can touch Fischer. Famous for his forays into the North Fork Valley in search of sustainably raised meats and produce, and for his willingness to pay farmers to grow things just for him, he's inspired a crop of younger chefs to follow his lead.

LANCE HANSON

Peak Spirits Estate Distillery at Jack Rabbit Hill, Hotchkiss
peakspirits.com, 970/835-4916

Hanson's distillery stands out for its innovative bottlings using local fruits. In addition to Cap Rock organic gin and vodka and Jack Rabbit Hill biodynamic wines, he uses organic peaches, pears, cherries, and other exceptional fruit from a handful of nearby growers to produce some sensational eau-de-vie and brandy.

RYAN HARDY

Montagna at The Little Nell, Aspen
thelittlenell.com, 970/920-6351

No local chef pursues the farm-to-table theme more passionately. As co-owner of a 27-acre organic farm in Crawford, Hardy produces everything from his own superb cheeses and preserves to chickens and pigs. This summer, check out his menus for Rendezvous Farm artichokes (!), plus exotic Italian greens like *puntarelle* and *broccoli romanesco*.

TAI, RIO, FOREST, AND JOCK JACOBER

Crystal River Meats, Carbondale
crystalrivermeats.com, 970/963-9996

The Jacober brothers began selling excellent local beef (grass-fed, dry-aged, and finished on a little molasses) to area restaurants a few years ago, and they've now expanded their retail business to include lamb, pork, sausages, and eggs. Fatbelly Burgers, just up the street, uses only their beef, and Hestia employs their lamb in its own deeply flavored burger.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE LOCALTARIANS

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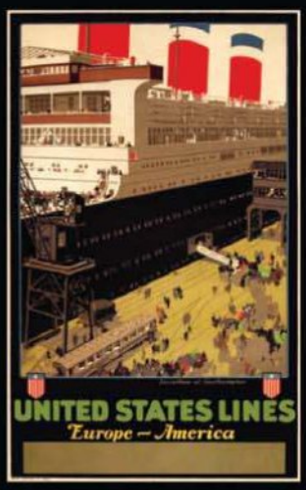
The Omnibus Gallery

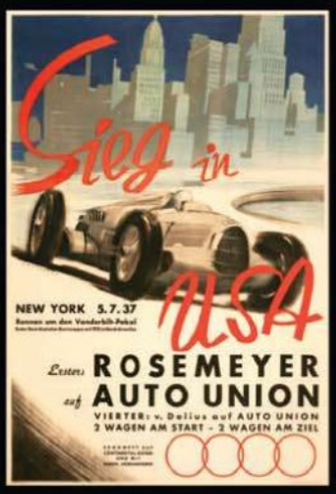
JOIN CIVIL DEFENSE
IT CAN HAPPEN HERE
Anonymous, 1951, United States
13 1/2 x 21 ½"

YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE
JAMES BOND 007
Anonymous, 1967, Italy
39 1/2 x 54 ¼"

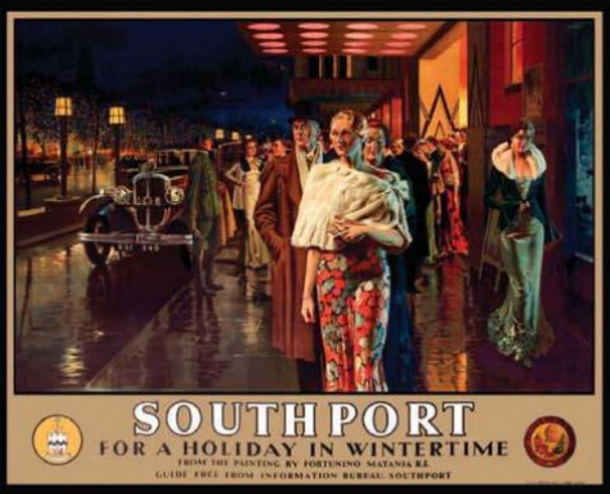


UNITED STATES LINES
EUROPE-AMERICA
LEVATHAN AT SOUTHAMPTON
Anonymous, c.1925, England
24 1/2 x 39"

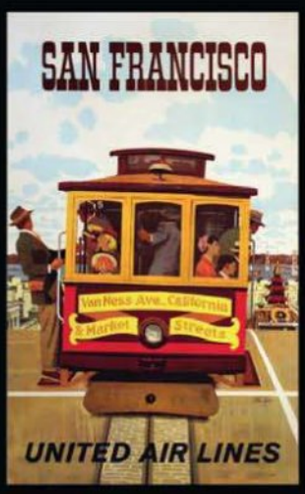
III OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
LAKE PLACID, USA
Witold Gordon, 1932, United States
24 1/2 x 39 ½"



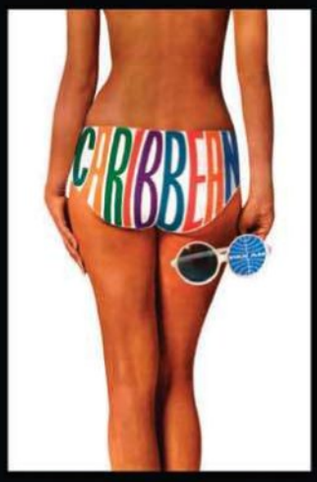
SIEG IN USA
AUF AUTO UNION
Viktor Mundorff, 1937, Germany
23 1/2 x 34 ¼"



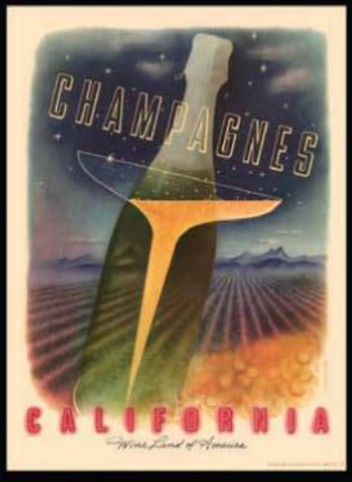
SOUTH PORT
FOR A HOLIDAY IN WINTERTIME
Fortunino Matania, c.1925, England
50 x 39 ¼"



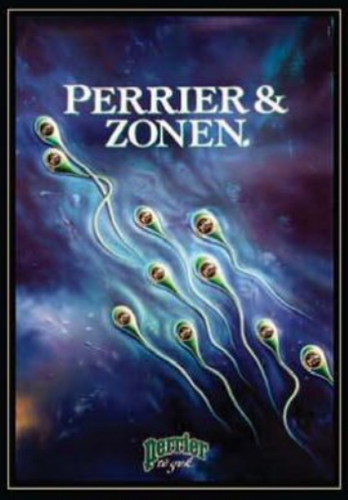
UNITED AIR LINES
SAN FRANCISCO
Stan Galli, c.1955, United States
24 x 40"



PAN AM, CARIBBEAN
BIKINI BOTTOM
Anonymous, 1969, United States
28 x 42 ¼"



CHAMPAGNES
CALIFORNIA WINE LAND OF AMERICA
L. Macouillard, c.1955, United States
20 3/4 x 28 ½"



PERRIER AND ZONEN
PERRIER TE GEK
A. Laurent, Holland
46 x 67 ½"

ST RAPHAEL, QUINQUINA
Leon Dupin, c.1930, France
38 x 58 ¾"

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MICHELE KILEY
Specialty Foods of Aspen
specialtyfoodsofaspen.com, 970/544-6656
Famous for Kiley's cheese selection and the expertly crafted panini sandwiches made by her business partner, Marco Cingolani, "the cheese shop" has long led the way in showcasing the best locally made products, from brownies and chocolate bars to goat cheese, honey, and salad dressing.

BROOK LEVAN
Sustainable Settings, Carbondale
sustainablesettings.org, 970/963-6107
Articulate and passionate about all things local, LeVan and his wife, Rose, head up a multifaceted working farm and learning center on a beautiful 244-acre ranch in the shadow of Mount Sopris. His frequent articles and lectures are provocative and enlightening; he's the conscience of our localtarian movement.

WENDY MITCHELL
Avalanche Cheese Company, Basalt
avalanchecheese.com, 970/527-4313
The goats live on a 130-acre farm in Paonia, the creamery is in Basalt, and Mitchell's array of fine handmade artisanal cheeses have quickly acquired a following of fans all over the Valley. From fresh, creamy chèvre to resonant Cheddar and blue, Mitchell is proving that great cheese can be made right here.

CHRIS NORVELL
Epicurious Fine Foods, El Jebel
myepicurious.com, 970/963-8353
At first glance, Epicurious looks like our own mini Dean & Deluca, displaying packaged goods and fresh fish and meat from far corners. But look closer and you'll notice how many local products Norvell showcases, including local beef, chicken, and eggs, plus salad greens, cheeses, and desserts.

JEROME OSENTOWSKI
Central Rocky Mountain
Permaculture Institute, Basalt
crmpi.org, 970/927-4158
Who says you can't grow figs and bananas up here in winter? For nearly a quarter century, Osentowski has taught classes in year-round high-altitude gardening, along with cataloguing every heritage fruit tree in the Valley. Today he's also working with Fat City Farmers to build permanent greenhouses at Western Slope schools.

DAVA PARR
Fresh & Wyld Farmhouse Inn
& Gardens, Paonia
freshandwyld.com, 970/527-4374
No one has done more to connect North Fork Valley food producers to chefs and consumers in the Roaring Fork Valley than Parr. For years, she personally delivered produce from over McClure Pass. Today she focuses on her farm school and excellent inn, which features cooking classes and superb weekend dinners using the best local ingredients.

AVTAR PERREAULT
Carbondale Community Food
Co-op, Carbondale
carbondalecommunityfoodcoop.org,
970/963-1375
Remember those musty co-ops selling stale lentils back in the Summer of Love? Now consider this neat, well-stocked emporium on Carbondale's Main Street, our valley's only community-owned natural and organic food store. You don't need to be a member to enjoy year-round local produce and other goodies—but as manager Perreault will remind you, you do have to bring your own bag.

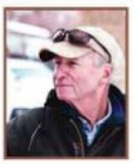
LISA RUOFF
Eco-Goddess Edibles, Carbondale
eco-goddess.com, 970/963-7316
Ruoff's Main Street restaurant is all-organic—something very few dining places in the country can claim—and local to the point of using eggs from down the road in her egg salad sandwiches and frittatas. Beyond being virtuous, the food is mighty tasty, hence the crowds at breakfast and lunch.

MARIE LOUISE RYAN
Slow Food Roaring Fork/Aspen
slowfoodroaringfork.com, 970/963-0205
As the local chapter of a large and influential national and international organization, Slow Food Roaring Fork/Aspen supports everything from school gardens and greenhouses to efforts to preserve local heritage foods. Ryan, who heads their Red McClure Potato Project, led the way in reintroducing the Valley's signature crop after a half century of neglect.

MICHAEL THOMPSON
Fat City Farmers, Basalt
fatcityfarmers.org, 970/927-4458
Thompson is an architect who is passionate about building a local and sustainable food economy. FCF is committed to agricultural education, to the Heritage Fruit Tree Project, and to raising awareness of local zoning and land use issues that can discourage growing your own food. Oh, and he's a crack home beer brewer, too.

FELIX TORNARE
Milagro Ranch beef, Carbondale
tornare@sopris.net, 970/963-3446
Tornare came to our valley to help his late father run Louis Swiss Bakery, then decided to cowboy up as well on his Missouri Heights ranch. His flavorful grass-finished beef is now featured from the top of Aspen's ski mountains (Sundeck, Merry Go Round, Sam's Smokehouse) to Smoke and Six89 downvalley.

EDEN VARDY
Aspen T.R.E.E., Woody Creek
re-generation.us, 970/379-2323
Need someone to come to your home and plant a garden or build a chicken coop or compost bin for you? Those are only some aspects of Vardy's enterprise. The organization also teaches adult eco-gardening workshops and features a wholesome youth living series (Camp ReGeneration). Last fall, their free pre-Thanksgiving "Early Bird" meal in Aspen fed nearly 700 people using only locally grown organic food.



TOM WALDECK
Emma Farms Cattle Company, Basalt
coloradowagyu@comcast.net, 970/544-5674
Starting a new cattle operation in the Roaring Fork Valley might seem like sheer folly, but Waldeck is not easily deterred. He's the only person in Colorado who's raising purebred Wagyu cattle—the breed that produces legendary Kobe beef in Japan. The meat from these grass-fed animals, far healthier than conventional beef, will debut on June 19 at a special dinner being prepared by Ryan Hardy at The Little Nell.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE LOCALTARIANS

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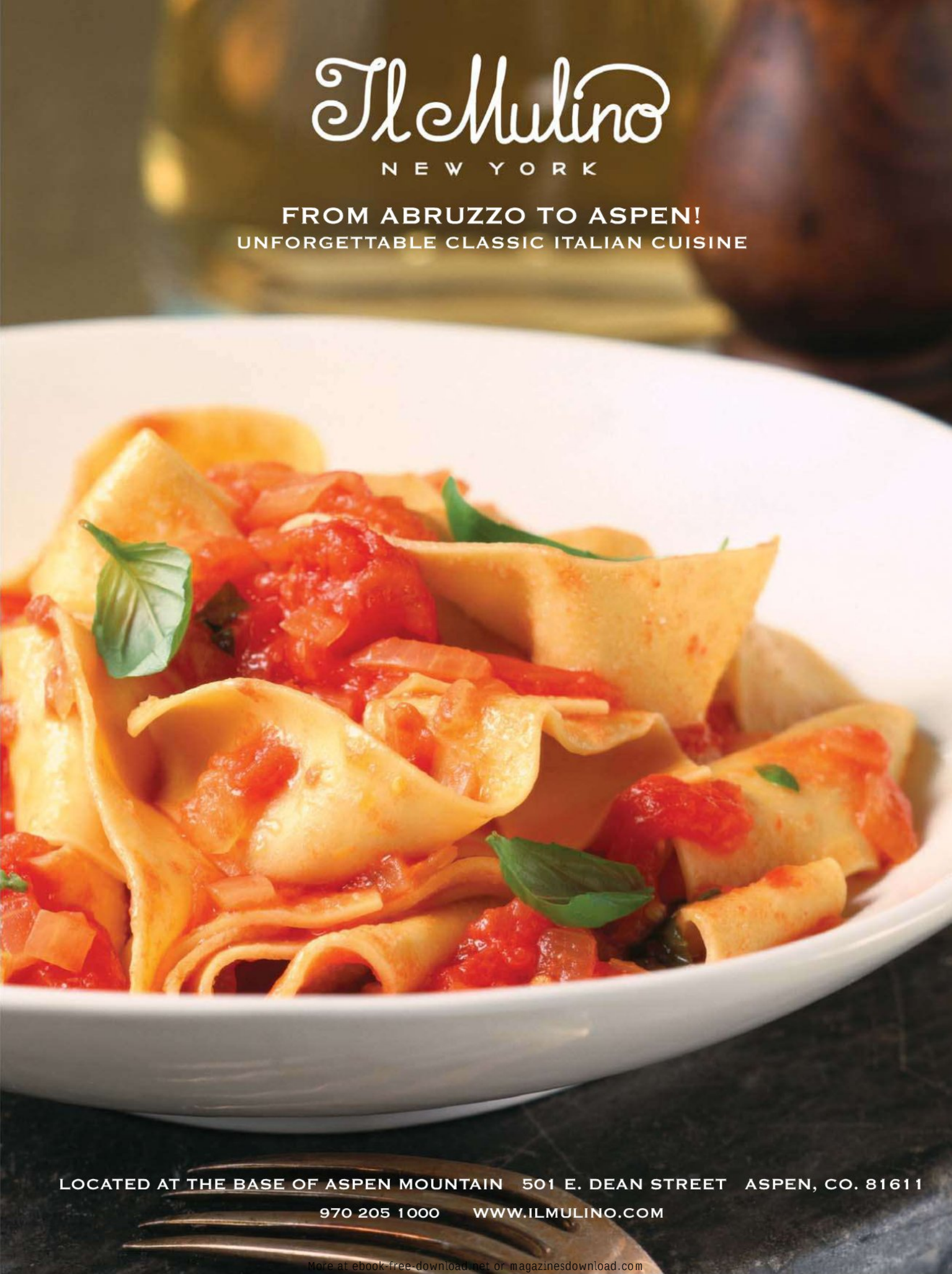

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Victory in the Garden

THE UPS AND DOWNS, ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL, OF AN ORGANIC FARM STARTUP. *By Ryan Hardy*

Lara bent down and studied the thistle. Her bronze skin was reddened from days in the high-desert sun as she lifted her oversized trucker hat and pulled back the leathery leaf of a violet-hued artichoke.

"*Carciofi violetti Pugliese*," I said. "I can't believe you coaxed these from the earth."

This purple-streaked artichoke of Puglia, an Italian delicacy, was one of the key treasures we sought in starting Rendezvous Farm near Crawford in 2007, when Aspen restaurants were clamoring for these and other fresh local vegetables. Today, even though that demand has dropped, farm co-managers Lara Judson and James Meloan are bringing forth a bounty of artichokes, tomatoes, chickens, and eggs.

It hasn't been easy. In the beginning, high-clay soils and unyielding wire grass made tilling by hand nearly impossible. Constant weed damage control and low yields made us wonder why we ever embarked on this journey. We were beginning to think that starting a small business as the economy rumbled towards meltdown was akin to, well, making an artichoke grow in the desert.

As we began to get a handle on crop yields, distribution costs, and soaring labor expenses, we noticed that the market had changed.

Turning the soil is good for the country, the soul, and the household budget.

While we were busy adding truckloads of compost to our soils over the past 24 months, restaurant closures, bank failures, and stalled grocery developments took over the headlines. Consumers, once crazy to get their hands on locally produced organic fruits and vegetables, now had retirement accounts to defend.

We've seen this before, you know, with the Victory Gardens of both world wars. In challenging times, turning the soil is good for the country, the soul, and the household budget. Small backyard gardens grew nearly 40 percent of all produce consumed in the United States through 1945. But with the postwar boom, Americans left small farms and gardens behind.

Sixty-five years later, we stand with our 401(k)s clutched tightly in our fists in aisle nine of the Enormo-Mart, eyes glazed, surrounded by Toasty-D-lites. "Organic foods," as labeled by special-interest groups behind the USDA, have filtered their way into these aisles. Arugula and squash blossoms, once purchased by the daring few at the local farmers' market, now sit in tidy cellophane packages next to such stalwarts as iceberg and cantaloupe.

The trembling economy has forced all of us to peer into the shopping cart and question what's in there. Do I really need out-of-season tomatoes, that $9 chocolate bar, or those micro-lot espresso beans from Peru? Okay, I'm not giving up the espresso, but the rest of it is

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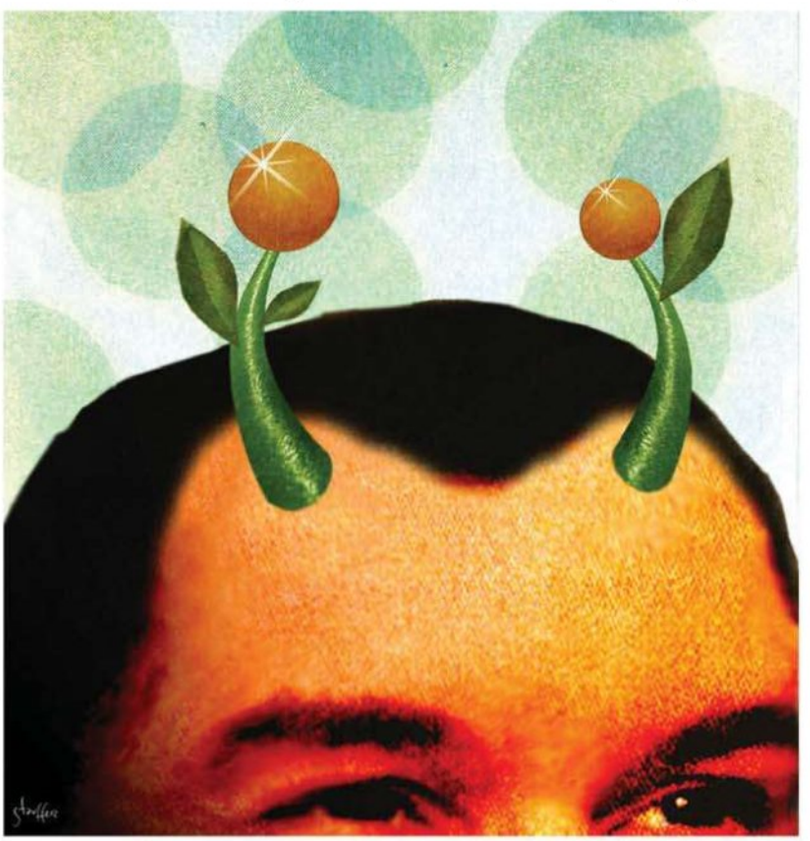

ILLUSTRATION: BRIAN STAUFFER

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LUXURY'S REVIVAL

What's the forecast for luxury goods and services? The answer to that question has a pretty big impact on Aspen, and the news looks good: A comeback is on the way, say the experts. But tomorrow's luxury is not the same as yesterday's. *By Janet O'Grady*

While the recession is not over, there is some good news for the affluent–and for towns like ours where they come to play, work, and live. The rich are not only getting richer; they're also happier and more confident. That was just one of many findings of the Survey of Affluence and Wealth in America, an annual study conducted by the Harrison Group for American Express Publishing Corporation. Details were unveiled at AEPC's 10th annual Luxury Summit, held in April at the eco-luxe Mandarin Oriental in Las Vegas.

"The overall mood was positive," said Ed Kelly, president and CEO of AEPC, which publishes some of our favorite magazines: Food & Wine; Travel + Leisure; and the arbiter of quality, Departures. More good news? The survey projected a net growth of $28 billion in the luxury sector in 2010.

The summit is like a TED conference for the luxury world; it draws thought leaders, CEOs of the world's great brands, and innovative marketers. They explored the theme of luxury–what it was, how it had been hijacked in the age of excess, and how it is finally rediscovering its roots. Luxury has been reframed, said Cynthia McFarlane, president of Saatchi & Saatchi Latin America, who drew her observations from interviews in 20 cities around the globe. We love her

ILLUSTRATION: AMY REDEI

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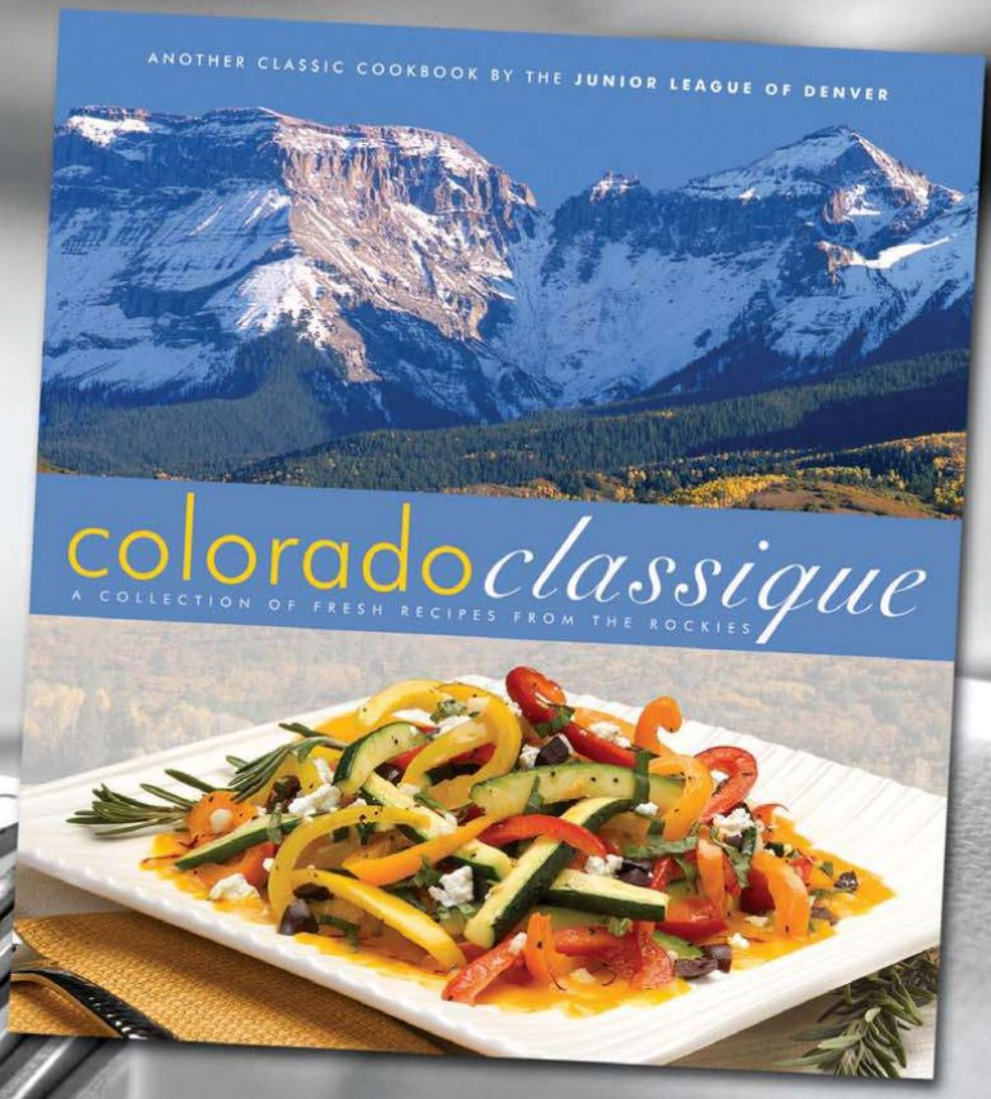
One delicious debut.

INTRODUCING COLORADO CLASSIQUE

Another classic cookbook from the Junior League of Denver, creators of *Colorado Cache, Crème de Colorado, Colorado Collage*, and *Colorado Colore*.



Featuring

- 75 beautifully-styled photos and recipes emphasizing fresh ingredients
- Nature photography by John Fielder
- Nutritional content for each recipe
- Colorado restaurant chapter
- A Forest Stewardship Council certified environmentally conscious book
- All proceeds from cookbook sales benefit the community programs of the Junior League of Denver

OUR OTHER AWARD-WINNING COOKBOOKS

The Junior League of Denver, celebrating over 90 years of service, is a volunteer organization of women working to promote the health and education of women and children in the Denver Metro area.

The League provides programs, partners with other non-profit organizations, and supports legislation that help women and children reach their full potential by ensuring they have access to education, health care, a safe environment, and career training.

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Women building better communities

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AT THE LUXURY SUMMIT: Marnie Tihany, Steven Sadove Chairman CEO of Saks, Inc., Nancy Novogrode, and Adam Tinhany; *left*, Julie Sacks and Ed Kelly, CEO of American Express Publishing

Luxury has been reframed as "a moment of peace in the middle of chaos, a feeling of safety in an unsafe world."

— Cynthia McFarlane, president of Saatchi & Saatchi Latin America

definition of luxury as "a moment of peace in the middle of chaos, a feeling of safety in an unsafe world." The rich want to be less manic, more centered. Time as luxury is more important than ever. She cited a wealthy banker who said he'd readily give up a zero in his net worth if it meant changing the "quality of a day in his life."

Nostalgia seems to play a role in our new desires as well. McFarlane noted that we are seeking "mystery that allows one to anticipate the thrill, romance, and memory of first-time experiences." And people want new learning experiences, whether about wine or tracking gorillas in Rwanda. "Some luxuries," she added, "don't come packed in tissue."

But others do, and we love them, too. Take, for instance, Louis Vuitton, a winner amidst the economic malaise. While some brands have gone down the slippery slope of discounting, Vuitton says it has maintained full pricing. "Product is king," said Louis Vuitton North America president and CEO Daniel Lalonde. The brand is successful, he argued, because it has stayed true to its heritage and values and "didn't change anything these past two years." Plus, he added with a smile, "it never goes on sale." Vuitton's success during the recession (as we went to press, its stock price was at a 10-year high, and it topped Millward Brown Optimor's list of the most powerful luxury brands in the world) is because the consumer sees the purchase as "a timeless investment."

So many aspects of modern life have changed since the advent of digital media, and the world of luxury choices is no exception. Customers want more digital information and content, but not at the expense of traditional media that we've come to trust. Saatchi & Saatchi's McFarlane spoke about the consumer's desire to embrace stories and secrets, and she called this the "golden age of editors and taste-meisters." Said AEPC's Kelly: "Digital strategy is a key component, but we love and support print." He agreed with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 172

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Restless Empathy

Exhibition: May 21 – July 18, 2010
Reception: Thursday, June 24, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Allora & Calzadilla, Pawel Althamer, Marc Bijl, Lara Favaretto,
Geof Oppenheimer, Lars Ramberg, Frances Stark, and Mark Wallinger

AAM admission is FREE courtesy of John and Amy Phelan

Image: Allora & Calzadilla, *HOPE HIPPO*, 2005. Installation view 51st Venice Biennale. Courtesy of Lisson Gallery.
Photo: Giorgio Boata.

Restless Empathy is organized by the Aspen Art Museum, funded in part by the AAM National Council with major support provided by Stefan Edlis and Gael Neeson. General exhibition support provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Generous publication support provided by Toby Devan Lewis. Exhibition lectures are presented by the Questrom Lecture Series.

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General Manager Jeff David

HOT SPOT

ASPEN'S HOTTEST NEW RESTAURANTS – IN SNOWMASS? REALLY? BELIEVE IT! EIGHT K AND NEST BRING A COOL NEW VIBE TO THE MOUNTAINSIDE

FINALLY, *Snowmass Village, Colorado, has an eco-friendly luxury hotel with personality. Lots of talented people had a hand in the Viceroy Snowmass, but a large measure of its success goes to GM Jeff David. The affable veteran of Viceroy Anguilla opened the hotel at the start of this past ski season. What's more, he did it on time and on budget: pretty impressive, especially in a recession. David is one of a new breed of hoteliers transforming hospitality. Not satisfied with just making sure beds are turned down and light fixtures work, he's out to create* ***happiness,*** *both for his hotel guests (families, millennials, single boomers) and members of the community (with much-buzzed-about benefit parties for arts organizations and schools). Key to the happiness quotient at the Viceroy are its restaurants, Eight K and Nest. Aspenites may not be used to driving to Snowmass for dinner, but the Viceroy's eateries offer plenty of motivation, no matter your zip code.*

BY JANET O'GRADY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY THADDEUS HARDEN

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HOT SPOT

Pastry Chef Ashley Jenkin

DESSERT: NOT JUST EYE CANDY

Every afternoon the Viceroy's lobby is a sweet spot, offering guests old-fashioned candies and homemade treats. Most popular (and delicious) is a one-pound addictive Snickers bar. Most eye-catching? A tree-like assemblage of brightly colored lollipops that are - suprisingly - cough drops, perfect after a day of skiing in the thin mountain air. David nixed boring room-service fruit baskets and cheese plates in favor of less conventional treats like salty homemade potato chips dipped in sweet chocolate, and homemade old-fashioned Cracker Jacks. Desserts by pastry chef Ashley Jenkin this summer will be crunchy, creamy, chocolaty, and citrusy: a malted sundae with chunks of warm brownies and house made Whoppers, hot fudge, and whipped cream; lemon meringue pie; and homemade ice cream sandwiches, to name just a few vices.

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Sushi Chef Francis Mo

FEST AT NEST

● Chef Francis Mo was brought in from Shibuya at the MGM Grand to morph Nest's menu from pool fare to traditional Japanese cuisine. The menu ranges from edamame and miso soup starters to classic sushi and sashimi. No, it's not a traditional sushi bar; but nothing else about the Viceroy is traditional, so why not? Especially when you get a smiling Mo bringing you a platter of dragon rolls of tuna, avocado, and jalapeño, topped with strawberries (okay, some of the rolls are LA-centric) while you're enjoying the ambience of a Kelly Wearstler-designed space. When weather permits, this informal, airy eatery goes al fresco around the pool, where you can also enjoy Eight K's Asian-inspired dishes.

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HOT SPOT

Restaurant Manager and Sommelier Thomas Rekasis

A VIN-TASTIC VENUE + MORE

Eight K's look springs from the fertile mind of Malaysian designer Jean-Michel Gathy, who melded low-key mountain casual with high-energy eco sleek. Here various shades of warm browns, foresty greens, and eggplant purple set the mood for designer dining. The result is luxury that's contemporary, not trendy. A comfy lounge area has low lighting, sofas, spectacular gas fireplaces, and walls flanked by bookshelves. The more formal dining room is punctuated by communal high tables. The dramatically-lit bar was a bustling après-ski hot spot, where the staff showed off superb cocktail-shaking skills. Its Vices cocktail menu sounds even more enticing in summer: Bees Knees, and an uva bella gin drink with freshly squeezed lemon juice, orange bitters, and organic green grapes. Restaurant manager and sommelier Thomas Rekasis commands the universe of Eight K. The wine list is not encyclopedic, like The Nell's and some others around town, but it is very nicely selected by Rekasis. This summer he is offering more organic wines (like Paul Dolan Vineyards) and artisanal brewers (such as Avery Porter Brewing Co.), and featuring Colorado's Sutcliffe Vineyards' Cabernet by the glass. Rekasis and the chefs, with full support from David, plan to source as many ingredients as possible from this summer's farmers' markets.

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Executive Chef Rob Zack

MELDING GLOBAL AND LOCAL

● Chef de cuisine David Cruz and executive chef Rob Zack serve up progressive American-style comfort food, (straightforward entrées like Colorado lamb, a juicy In-N-Out style burger with fries) along with dishes with global references (fiery chipotle-charged Mexico City–style tacos, Italian-sausage meatballs nestled in a mascarpone polenta). "Eclectic" could be a code word for chaos, but the dishes actually get along and you eat exceptionally well here. Nods to the season dictate menu changes; a local heirloom tomato salad comes on homemade flatbread, and there are seasonal desserts such as plum crisp and cherry shortcake. A member of the Cleanfish Alliance of Sustainable Seafood Products, Eight K keeps searching for even more sources; a Colorado striped bass will be added to the menu. Drawing further from the global pantry, this summer's menu ranges from Baja (fish tacos) to Vietnam (a nuanced Vietnamese vegetarian Pho plus *banh mi* sandwiches filled with pork, pâté, and pickled vegetables) and other elevated casual dishes.

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Wine for a Lifetime

Heartfelt connection: Tony Mazza (here in his Red Mountain cellar) remembers crushing grapes to make wine with his Italian grandfather. Today he's a partner in a noted winery in Patagonia.

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By Kelly Hayes — Photographs by Dan Bayer & Jason Dewey

PASSIONS REVEALED

AMAZING GRAPES

Four Aspenites share their joy of collecting and offer a glimpse inside their rarely-seen home cellars.

"Collecting is a primal act," says Jonathan Pullis, wine director at The Little Nell's Montagna restaurant. With his experience pouring wine for many of the world's most esteemed wine collectors, he should know. Collecting, whether the object of desire be comic books and bottle caps in childhood, or art and automobiles in adulthood, is an act that may begin as an urge, turn into a hobby, explode into a passion, and even become an obsession.

Here in Aspen there is a cadre of wine lovers who are passionate about their juice. Some have lavish cellars with selections from around the world; they number their bottles into the thousands. Others have a few cases tucked into a downstairs cellar. These collectors share not just a love of wine (many of us have that!) but also a commitment to safeguard their special bottles until that just-right moment when they pull the cork, decant the wine, and enjoy the very fruits of their patience.

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Tony Mazza

From collector to winemaker

FOR TONY MAZZA, one of Aspen's best-known commercial landlords, a relationship with wine began long before he came to town 40 years ago. "I used to go up to my Italian grandfather's house in Washington Heights in New York City," he reminisced recently as we stood in his wine cellar stocked with bottles and magnums of many of the world's most desired wines. "Grandpa would make wine; I used to crush the grapes with him. I remember him tying little pieces of string around the necks of the bottles so you could tell by the dust and the age of the string how old they were, and he would know when they were ready to drink."

The winery he co-founded in Argentina and its award-winning Pinots are "My real joy," Mazza says.

Today Mazza's cellar at his home above Aspen on Red Mountain holds treasures including First Growth Bordeaux, vintage Port, and a selection of California cult Cabernets.

True Love: *Tony and his wife treasure the Imperials they poured to celebrate their wedding.*

The wines span the world and the spectrum of grapes. Favorites include a 1961 Chatêau Lynch-Bages, a 1985 Sassicaia, and a 1982 Paul Jaboulet Aine Hermitage La Chapelle and, of course his collection of wines from his latest obsession: Bodega Chacra, a winery he has helped establish in Río Negro, Argentina.

"I was interested in wines at a young age," he recalls. "I knew I wanted to have a cellar, but it was just a matter of having the means to do it." He began serious tasting and drinking in the early 1990s with Dr. Stephen Mandy, a former Aspen physician and connoisseur who introduced him to many of the best wines from Burgundy and Bordeaux. "Steve is an amazing guy with an amazing palate," he notes. "We would sit around and taste great wines. I learned lot about wine, and later we traveled to a bunch of different wine regions."

Once he had the opportunity (Mazza is a partner in M&W Properties, one of the largest holders of commercial real estate in Aspen), he got heavily into buying Bordeaux. "I bought my house, it was just a cabin, really, in 1973. I would keep a couple of cases in the crawl space, but I would drink them pretty quickly," he remembers. "Then when I built this house and the cellar in 1999, I began to buy at auctions from places like Christie's and John Hart (the Chicago-based fine wine merchants)."

"On my wedding day in 1999, a trailer filled with cases of wine pulled into the Clark's Market parking lot and I spent the day (my wedding day, mind you) taking them up to the cellar," he remembers fondly. His cellar still holds the empty Imperials (a large format wine bottle that holds 6 liters or 8 bottles of wine) of 1981 Château La Mission Haut-Brion and 1983 Château Lafite-Rothschild that he and his wife, Mona, poured to celebrate their marriage.

Mazza's focus now is less on building his collection. He still enjoys finding a special bottle, but his wife Mona does not drink, and his own consumption has slowed. "At the rate I drink things, which is less than I used to," he says, "I don't know that I'm going to get through this stuff."

His real interest lies below the equator, in Argentina. In 2004 Mazza invested, on a handshake, with Piero Incisa della Rocchetta (the grandson of Mario Incisa della Rocchetta, whose Sassicaia pioneered the creation of Super-Tuscan wines) to build a winery in Patagonia. There, on the arid but irrigated plains, Pinot Noir vines inexplicably flourish.

Today the Argentine winery stands as a testament to the vision of an Italian winemaker and the Aspen businessman. Its Pinots have received consistently high marks from critics including *The Wine Spectator*, which gave the Bodega Chacra Pinot Noir Rio Negro Treinta y Dos 2008 a score of 92. "That is my real joy. Going to Rio Negro and making this work," he says. Mazza's wine-making grandpa would, no doubt, be proud.

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Good Stuff
The Master Sommelier at home: Pullis stores his favorites in his basement cellar in Aspen's West End

Jonathan Pullis

Blending work and pleasure

A CHOSEN FEW special bottles make up the core of Jonathan Pullis's small but ever-growing wine collection. Some two dozen cases of Premier Cru Burgundy and a few special bottles of Jean-Louis Chave's wonderful wines from the northern Rhone rest beneath the floorboards of the two-bedroom home Pullis shares in Aspen's West End with his wife, Rebekah, and their boys, Charlie and Oliver.

There, below a cellar door, four steps down a homemade ladder, is a dirt floor with cases stacked side by side. "It's cool, it's clean, I never have to worry about the power going out. It's perfect!" a beaming Pullis points out. The wines await the day when Pullis deems them ready to drink.

And if anyone knows the perfect time to pull the corks, it's Pullis. He is one of just 105 people in North America to have passed the wine world's most rigorous test, the Court of Master Sommelier Level IV exam. Pullis began pouring wines at The Little Nell 11 years ago, working alongside, and eventually following, Master Sommeliers Bobby Stuckey and Richard Betts, as The Nell's wine director.

For his own cellar, his tastes run to Burgundy. Pullis buys through local wine shops and auction houses, focusing on good makers and great vintages. "You can get great buys at the Premier Cru level," he suggests.

Pullis and his wife drink wine just about every night when they are home, and while there may be fine wines in the basement, they most often turn to a 188-bottle storage fridge in the kitchen. Jim Clendenen's Au Bon Climat Pinot Noir from California's Central Coast nestles next to Kabinett-level German Rieslings, some Pinot Grigio and a bottle or two of Betts & Scholl Grenache for everyday drinking. "If I keep this stocked," Pullis jokes, "I never have to worry about my wife and her friends getting into the good stuff in the cellar while I'm at work."

Pullis likes to find wines from vintages that coincide with special events in his life. "Fortunately, my wife and I were both born in good vintage years," he smiles. Down in the dirt is a bottle of Krug Champagne from the 1971 vintage and a 1969 Château Conseillante from Pomerol. Son Charlie was born in 2005, one of the all-time top vintages, and Pullis prophesizes that the Domaine Dujac from 2008, Oliver's birth year, "should be great."

Like all collectors, Pullis enjoys finding a special bottle. But the real pleasure comes from serving it, and his friends reap the benefits. "If I go to the cellar and pull out a bottle at home," Pullis remarks, "I would expect to serve it with the same care and attention I would give at The Nell."

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Michael Goldberg

Enjoying the great vintages

"I PREFER MATURE wines," Michael Goldberg says, a typical understatement for this low-key and well-known Aspen businessman. In the cellar of his Bill Poss–designed home lies a collection that literally defines the world of wine in the 20th century. The most outstanding wines and the greatest vintages of the last 100-plus years are represented in a room that he estimates "at last count held 13,000 or so bottles."

Goldberg made his fortune buying, selling, and leasing aircraft. Big aircraft, 757s and the like. In 1980, flush with success and a growing interest in wines, he began his collection. "The first things I bought were '78 Bordeaux, and then I bought futures for 1982," he says, referring to one of the top-ten vintages ever.

Hooked, Goldberg began to collect with purpose, but still, a personal touch. "Back when I began collecting, the '49's (again, one of Bordeaux's extraordinary vintages) were mature and I was beginning to become mature myself. So it just seemed to make sense to begin collecting the wines from the year of my birth," he says.

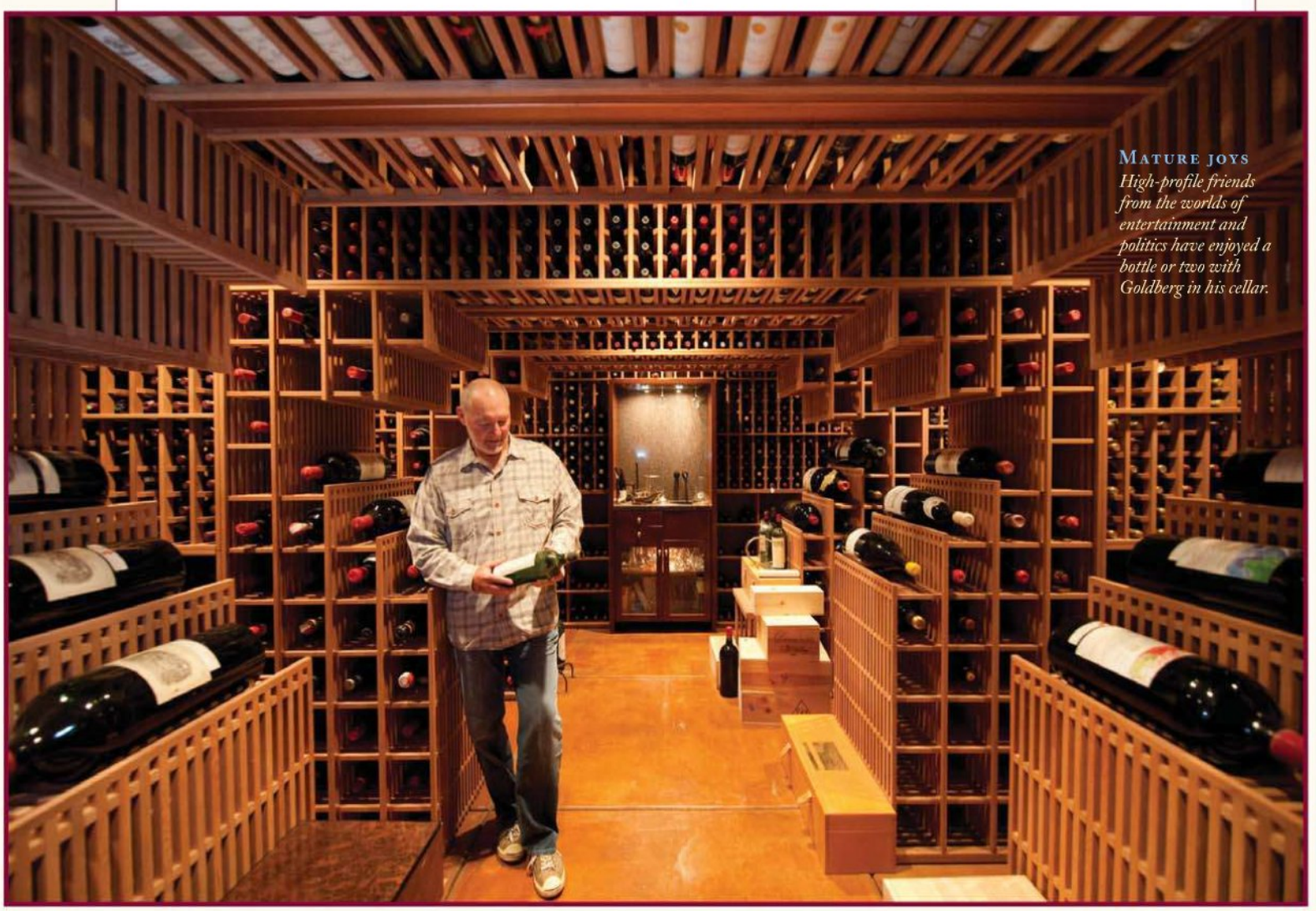
Today an entire cellar wall is devoted to wines of the 1949 vintage, including all of the Bordeaux First Growths from the 1855 classification Château Lafite-Rothschild, Château Latour, Château Margaux, Château Haut-Brion and Château Mouton Rothschild, which was elevated to First Growth status in 1973. It is an amazing collection, and yet these aren't the cellar's senior residents.

Not by a long shot.

Tucked back in a corner are wines from the 1900 vintage, dust from the ages still holding on. Pulling out a magnum of Château Léoville-Poyferré from the first vintage of the last century, Goldberg explains: "That 1900 frenzy, you know, I wasn't alone on that; it was the result of the turn of the century and everybody wanted to drink a wine that was 100 years old."

How do you open a bottle of 110-year-old wine? "Very carefully," Michael chuckles. "Actually I open a 1900 just like I do a 1982. I come and open it here in the cellar and decant it. I may drink it a little sooner than the '82 because they don't last long once the air hits."

While he is still in the aircraft business ("I tried to retire, but I couldn't figure it out," he chuckles), he now spends the bulk of his time as a restaurateur and a music impresario. His nightspots Matsuhisa and Belly Up are Aspen institutions. His local businesses have become Michael's passion, perhaps replacing the intensity he once placed in building his wine collection. "I seldom buy wine any more, (but) if something really special pops up I might go for it," he muses. "But really, how much wine can one drink?"



Mature joys *High-profile friends from the worlds of entertainment and politics have enjoyed a bottle or two with Goldberg in his cellar.*

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Jerry Murdock

The life lessons of wine

JERRY MURDOCK, venture capitalist, Aspen Institute board member, and devoted collector, doesn't like to talk about age–the age of his wines, that is. Yet while Murdock modestly avoids the topic, it is impossible to ignore the extraordinary history on the shelves of the four wine cellars on the lower level of his Aspen home.

There is the 1945 Château Roumier from Burgundy, a product of the last vintage of the last year of the last World War. There is a 1875 Bordeaux produced from vines that had to be torn out when phylloxera, the plague of pests, devastated the region in 1878. Nearby are bottles of Sauternes from Château d'Yquem from the Civil War years.

And then there is the 1811 Château Lafite-Rothschild, notable not only for its unique bottle (an extremely rare hand blown *tappit-hen* of Scottish origin) but also for being a "comet wine," meaning that it was grown in the year that a comet was visible for 260 straight days over French skies. There are those who credit the presence of the comet, dubbed "Napoleon's Comet" for the greatest wine vintage in recorded history.

Walking with Murdock through the small but packed wine rooms is like taking a trip through a museum. The contemporary finishes and the streamlined drawers, each filled with the world's rarest bottles, contrast with the history of the ageless wines found within.

And yet Murdock takes a practical view of his collection. "I don't really care about the bottles so much," he says. "I care about the experience when you open the bottles, and how I enjoy sharing them with friends, and the excitement that comes from that."

In fact Murdock's appreciation for his collection tracks far more toward the spiritual than the material. "When I first started to drink really good red wine, it slowed me down. It made me look at the food and perhaps the person I was with, and it made me realize that there was maybe more to everything," he reflects. "So in some ways wine has been my teacher. Wine coupled with a passion to learn and a passion to understand have made me more aware of the subtleties of life."

His journey with wine and with the Roaring Fork Valley began just two decades ago. "I took a wrong turn in Glenwood in 1989 on my way to Vail and came to Aspen instead," he recalls. "I rented a place the next day and have been here ever since." He soon started a technology company and, shortly after, began to buy wines.

Practical View
Wine made me look... Wine and a passion to learn have made me more aware of the subtleties of life.

"I started to collect what I could afford, and at the time that was Bordeaux," Murdock recalls. "They were less expensive then, the easiest to understand because it is all sort of laid out for you, the regions, the grapes."

Over the years his passion has turned to the great makers and the great vintages of Burgundy. "My goal here is to build like a little Morgan Library," he says, referring to the famed New York literary and art collection of financier Pierpont Morgan. "Not vast amounts, but every great bottle from a particular producer and the great years," he explained as he showed a selection of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti (DRC), regarded by Burgundy lovers as the holy grail of the region's wines. "I bought many of these from the Doris Duke Estate," he notes while looking through shelves of these prized wines. He is obviously moved by them.

"I don't really care about the bottles... I care about the experience when you open the bottles."

To illustrate his passion for wine, Murdock cites a passage from the play *Death and the King's Horseman* by Nobel Prize laureate Wole Soyinka. "One of my philosophies comes from Nigeria, from the Yoruba," Murdock says. "In the play the author quotes a Yoruban phrase: 'That which is good is that which brings harmony to the universe.'"

"Nothing," he insists, "brings more harmony than wine."

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Letarte Doily cover-up, *Gorsuch and Pitkin County Dry Goods*; **Pucci** beach towel and terry cloth beach bag, *Pucci*; **Dior** gold glossy sunglasses, *Christian Dior*; **Gypsy** ring, *B'Jewel*; **Ippolita** gold bangles, *Meridian Jewelers*; **Fendi** metal and wood studded cuff, *Fendi*; **Prada** plex sandals, *Prada.*

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summer groove

A '70s VIBE MEETS ASPEN CASUAL

PHOTOGRAPHED ON LOCATION AT
THE RESIDENCES OF THE LITTLE NELL BY
THADDEUS HARDEN

STYLING BY CONSTANCE GOLDER
HAIR BY RITA BELLINO & JULIE METALLO
MAKEUP BY VANESSA VIENI

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On Jessie: **Sonia Bogner** Luana tunic, *Gorsuch;* **San Diego Hat Company** black and white hat, *Misstyx;* **Rask** beaded bracelet, *Max; On Tommy:* **Moncler** Marcel plaid blazer, *Moncler;* **Zegna** linen drawstring pants, **Mod-O-Doc** cotton polo, *Pitkin County Dry Goods;* **Malo** suede boat shoe, *Malo.*

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Summer Groove

THIS PAGE *On Jessie:* **Blumarine** polka-dot blouse, **Ermanno Scervino** khaki shorts, *Nuages;* **Rask** bracelet, *Max; On Anfisa:* **Moncler** Ansellia jacket, *Moncler;* **Malo** yellow polo, *Malo;* **Fidelity Denim,** shorts, *Blu Phoenix.*
OPPOSITE PAGE *On Jessie* **Pucci** sleeveless printed dress, *Pucci;* **Missoni** sandals, *The Gallerie;* leather and turquoise cuff bracelet, *Misstyx;* **Rask** long pearl necklace with diamond pavé beads, *Max.*

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OPPOSITE PAGE *On Anfisa:* **Prada** silk beach print shorts and halter top, *Prada;* **Ippolita** hammered hoop earrings, *Meridian Jewelers;* **Oliver Peoples** sunglasses, *Optica;* THIS PAGE *On Jessie:* **Suno** tie-dyed dress, *Distranctions;* **Pucci** cuff braclet, *Pucci;* **Morgenthal Frederics** sunglasses, *Optica. On Tommy* **Etro** linen shirt, *Gorsuch;* **Ralph Lauren** blue cargo shorts, *Ralph Lauren;* **Morgenthal Frederics** sunglasses, *Optica.*

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Edward S. Curtis "Canon de Chelly-Navaho"

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Woodrow Blagg, "Electra", graphite, 40" x 60"

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SUMMER 2010 LISTINGS IN THE ROARING FORK VALLEY

1. ANDERSON RANCH ARTS CENTER

A vibrant international learning community dedicated to creativity and growth through the making and understanding of the visual arts, located on a beautiful five-acre mountain ranch in Snowmass Village. Providing opportunities for artists of all levels of expertise to uncover, develop, and stretch their creative spirits through year-round workshops, artists' residencies, exhibitions, lectures, public events, and community outreach. Galleries features rotating exhibitions by renowned visiting artists, faculty, artists in residence, and artistic staff spanning a range of media including painting, ceramics, sculpture, wood and furniture design, printmaking, and photography/digital media. Gallery and store open 9AM–5PM, Monday–Friday, and guided campus tours are available Tuesday afternoons at 4PM. 5263 Owl Creek Road, Snowmass Village, 970-923-3181, andersonranch.org

2. ARTASPEN

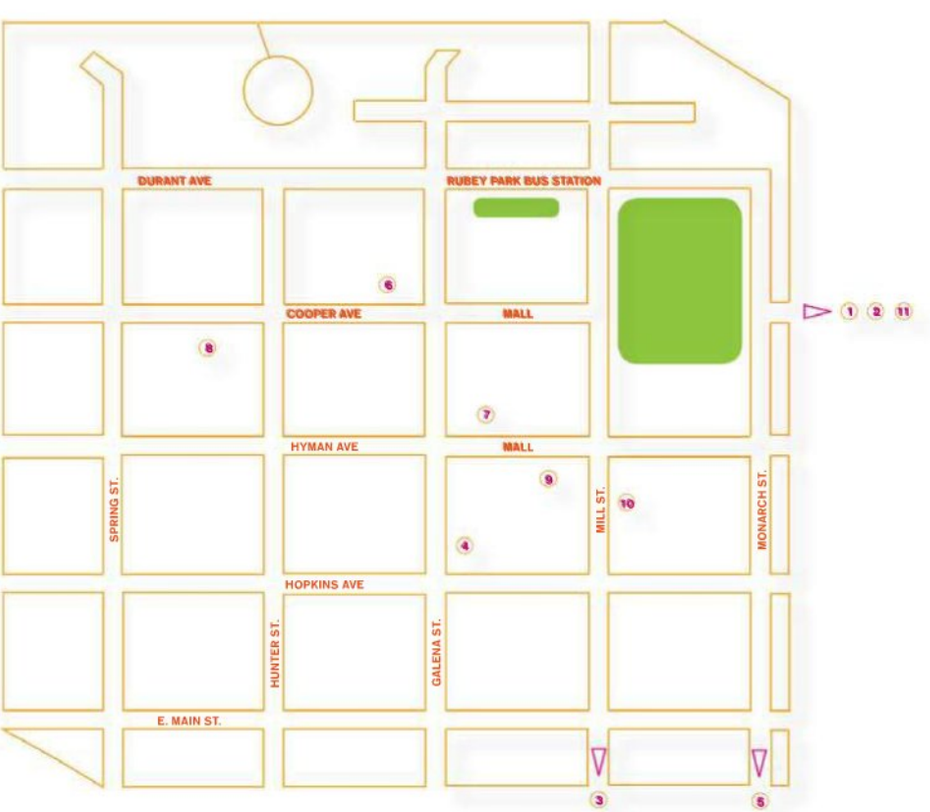
Opening in Aspen for the first world-class fine art marketplace for postwar and contemporary art. Presenting 40 nationally and internationally esteemed galleries that are showcasing $200 million artworks. Choose from 2,000 significant artworks from 400 renowned artists. It's Aspen's largest selection of fine art ever, and the Aspen Ice Garden has been converted into a museum-like setting for it. Don't miss "Art Basel in the Mountains." The Champagne Brunch, August 5, benefits Anderson Ranch, while the Opening Preview Party, also August 5, benefits The Buddy Program. It's all part of Aspen Art Lovers Weekend. From the producers of SF Fine Art Fair and ArtHamptons. 631-283-5505, art-aspen.com

3. ASPEN ART MUSEUM

The Aspen Art Museum is a non-collecting institution presenting the newest, most important evolutions in international contemporary art. Innovative and timely exhibitions, education and public programs, immersive activities, and community happenings actively engage audiences in thought-provoking experiences of art, culture, and society. Summer exhibitions include *Restless Empathy,* May 21–July 18; *Marlo Pascual,* July 30–October 3; *Sergej Jensen,* July 30–October 10; and 970.ORG, October 20–November 28. Open Tues.–Sat. 10AM–6PM (Thurs. 10AM–7PM); Sun. 12–6PM. Admission to the AAM is free, courtesy of John and Amy Phelan. 590 N. Mill St., 970-925-8050, aspenartmuseum.org

4. BALDWIN GALLERY

Brings New York culture to the Rockies. A premier showcase for the latest in contemporary fine art, including paintings, drawings, photography, and sculpture, the gallery places particular emphasis on American artists. Founded in 1994 by Harley Baldwin and Richard Edwards, it quickly became a major venue for art of the 20th- and 21st-centuries. Artists include Baechler, Bartlett, Bleckner, Christo, Dunham, Fischl, Halley, Mapplethorpe, Morley, Sachs, Simmons, the Starns, Steir, Sultan, and Turrell. Summer exhibits include Jennifer Bartlett and Robert Mapplethorpe, June 26-July 25; Caroll Dunham and Sarah Charlesworth, July 30-September 6. Open Mon.–Sat. 10AM–6PM; Sun. noon–5PM. 209 S. Galena St., 970-920-9797, baldwingallery.com



ON THE COVER:
Jennifer Bartlett, *Aspen 6 Weeks pastel 18,* 1995. pastel on paper, 30 in x 30 in. Baldwin Gallery.

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Delia Brown, "Blonde Boudoir II", oil on panel, 2008-2010, 8 x 12 ins.

Diti Almog
Donald Baechler
Kevin Baker
Jennifer Bartlett
Sebastian Blanck
Ross Bleckner
Delia Brown
James Lee Byars
Sarah Charlesworth
Christo & Jeanne-Claude
Greg Colson
Will Cotton
Peter Dayton
Stephen Dean
Carroll Dunham
Eric Fischl
Adam Fuss
Ewan Gibbs
Isca Greenfield-Sanders
Toland Grinnell
Tim Hailand
Peter Halley
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Marilyn Minter
Malcolm Morley
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Milton Rosa-Ortiz
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SUMMER 2010 LISTINGS IN THE ROARING FORK VALLEY

5. BETTY WEISS

Abstractly exploring the interaction between form, texture, and color, Weiss uses acrylic media and elements of collage. Her work has been exhibited in various juried shows in Colorado and the Midwest and is in private collections in numerous cities. Named artist of the year in 2008, her artwork can be seen at the Red Brick Center for the Arts, 110 E. Hallam St., Studio 109, Aspen. 970-925-2906, bettyweiss.com

6. DAVID FLORIA GALLERY

Exhibiting significant contemporary art in all media by internationally acclaimed and emerging artists, including Joe Andoe, Bo Bartlett, Herbert Bayer, Richard Carter, Woods Davey, Brad Durham, Michael Eastman, Betsy Eby, Caio Fonseca, Zaria Forman, Linda Girvin, Jody Guralnick, John Huggins, Mel Kendrick, Andrew Millner, Ed Paschke, Joseph Scheer, Allison Stewart, and James Surls. Open Mon.–Sat. 10AM–5PM; Sun. noon–6PM; or by appointment. 525 E. Cooper Ave., Aspen. 970-544-5705, floriagallery.com

7. ELLIOTT YEARY GALLERY

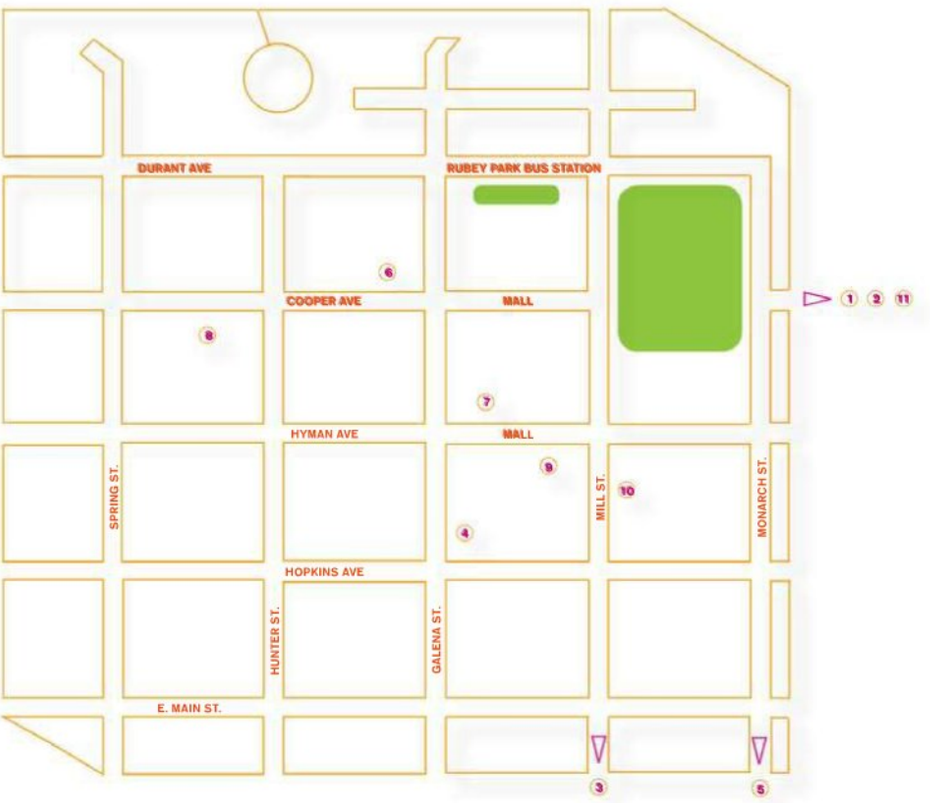
Elliott Yeary Gallery offers fine art and jewelry for knowledgeable collectors as well as first-time buyers. The gallery specializes in presenting traditional as well as abstract and expressive works by today's finest emerging artists. Landscapes, still-lifes, wildlife, and ceramic works round out our impressive collection of art. Artists include Pierre Boncompain, Stefaan Eyckmaans, Jeff Sojka, Rolinda Stotts, Susan Swartz, Ezra Tucker, and Richard Wieth. Elliott Yeary is also pleased to offer an outstanding jewelry collection including ARA 24K Collection, Arman, Arunashi, Grace Chin, Elizabeth Showers, Sevan and Cheryl Wyly. Open daily. 419 E. Hyman Ave., Aspen. 970-429-1111, elliottyeary.com

8. Galerie Maximillian

One of Aspen's most respected galleries, Galerie Maximillian exhibits renowned 19th- and 20th-century masterworks on paper and contemporary British and American art. Featuring a world-class collection of Chagall, Dubuffet, Matisse, Miro and Picasso works, as well as the contemporary genius of artists such as Chuck Close, Richard Dupont, Peter Doig, Anish Kapoor, Grayson Perry, and Mark Quinn. Summer 2010 highlights: *Spots, Words & Sounds - Recent works by Damien Hirst, Mel Bochner, Christian Marclay, Richard Prince and Vik Muniz.* Exhibition runs June 25–July 25. Then, through Labor Day, is *Cameron Gray: POP!* and *Yarg Noremac: Bursting the Bubble–Original Paintings and Photocollages.* Opening with the artists: Friday, July 30, 6–8PM. Open Mon.–Sat. 10AM–8PM., Sun. 11AM–6PM. 602 E. Cooper Ave., Aspen. 970-925-6100, galeriemax.com

9. Tania Dibbs

Local favorite and nationally recognized artist Tania Dibbs showcases her paintings at her Big Sky Studio and Gallery. The gallery showcases Tania's oil paintings in a unique and offbeat space located right on the Hyman Mall in downtown Aspen. Originally the space was leased for a 107 day show in winter 2009 but after rave reviews and much success, the gallery is a fixture on the mall for another season. Art lovers can view her new contemporary series as well as a few works from previous years, and also see Tania's trademark "on-site" painting arrangement in the front window. Tania's organically beautiful paintings inspire an instinctive reaction through abstractions that hit home because they are drawn from the familiar vocabulary of nature. Open 7 days a week 12-8PM. 414 E. Hyman Ave., Aspen, 970-948-4075, taniadibbs.com



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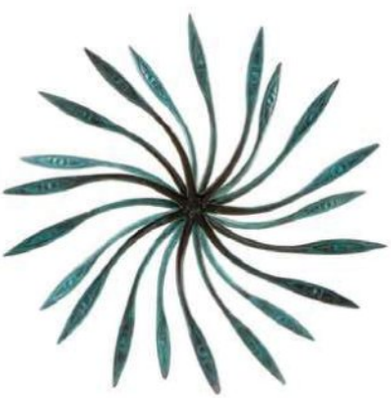
DAVID FLORIA GALLERY

Joseph Scheer

NEW PRINTS

June 18–July 14

Phassus huebneri, 2010, Iris print,
34 x 46 inches, Edition of 12



James Surls

NEW SCULPTURES

July 16–August 11

Walking Eye Flower, 2009, Cast bronze,
14 inches, Edition of 5

Allison Stewart

NEW PAINTINGS

August 13–September 8

Vermilion Canto #3, 2010, Mixed media
on canvas, 30 X 30 Inches

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SUMMER 2010 LISTINGS IN THE ROARING FORK VALLEY

10. Valley Fine Art

A gallery with more than 20 years of experience showing classic American art. Specializing in 19th- and early 20th-century American paintings and the Native American photography of Edward S. Curtis, as well as deceased artists such as Adams, Audubon, Berninghaus, Bierstadt, Couse, Jackson, Moran, Remington, Russell, and Sharp. Works by nationally known living artists include Agius, Blagg, Bunn, Burkett, Coen, Coleman, Encinias, Hajdu, Naranjo, Van Cleve, and Waddell. Aspen's only gallery showing vintage Native American Old Pawn Jewelry. Don't miss *Small Miracles*, a show of small paintings and sculpture to benefit The Right Door (a substance abuse foundation helping individuals in our community). Sponsored by Valley Fine Art, The City of Aspen, Pitkin County, and Jay Walker Lodge. Show Reception at Valley Fine Art, 5-9PM Friday, August 13. Open Daily. 213 S. Mill St., Aspen. 970-920-9193, valleyfineart.com

11. Walker Fine Art

Contemporary mixed media and sculpture in steel, stone, bronze, and glass, featuring regional, national, and international artists. Located in the heart of the Golden Triangle Museum District in downtown Denver, four blocks from the Denver Art Museum. Roland Bernier, Jerry Wingren, Albert Chong, Robert Buelteman, Bonny Lhotka, Gail Folwell, Eric Corrigan, Ben Strawn, Sabin Aell, Brenda Stumpf, M Vlasic, Munson Hunt, Don Quade, Jonathan Hils, Mark Castator, Frank ONeill, Norman Epp, Jared Davis, Miani Carnevale, Bill Vielehr, Jason Lucas, and Angela Beloian. Open Tues-Sat. 11AM-6PM and first Fridays 6-9PM 300 W. 11th Ave at Cherokee Street, Denver, 303-355-8955, walkerfineart.com

CALENDAR

JUNE

6.1.10

Original new works by emerging artist Jeff Yost. Landscapes and room interiors dominate the up-and-coming artist's collection. June 1–June 27. **Elliott Yeary Gallery, 970-429-1111**

6.1.10

Art Exhibition: Red Brick. Resident Artists, June 1–30. Opening Reception: Thursday, June 3, 5–7PM. **Betty Weiss, 970.925.2906**

6.4.10

First Friday and opening reception for M Vlasic and Mark Castator, *Altered* showing through July 10. Back Gallery featuring Quim Bove, Frank O'Neill, and Danny Williams. 6-9PM. **Walker Fine Art, 303-355-8955**

6.11.10

Grand opening weekend for summer season. Open 7 days a week 12-8PM. **Tania Dibbs Gallery, 970-948-4075**

6.8.10

Made: Artist Projects at Anderson Ranch at the Patton-Malott Gallery. Opening reception June 8, 5–7PM. This exhibition features work made through the Visiting Artist Project Program with notable artists Enrique Martinez Celaya, David Hilliard, Pattie Lee Becker, Takashi Nakazato, Adam Chapman, Peter Voulkos, Brad Miller and Hedwig Brouckaert. This exhibition showcases the incredible production capabilities of the Ranch and the great relationships fostered through the creation of artwork. Show through June 30. **Anderson Rnach Art Center, 970-923-3181**

Jeff Yost, *Oriens*, Oil on Panel, 12 in x 12 in. Elliott Yeary Gallery.

6.8.10

Mariana Vieira at the Gideon Gartner Gallery. Opening reception, June 8, 5-7PM. This solo exhibition features select work by photographer Mariana Vieira. Showing through June 30. **Anderson Rnach Art Center, 970-923-3181**

IMAGES: COURTESY OF ELLIOTT YEARY GALLERY

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photograph by Sabin Aell

'High - Bias'
Eric Michael Corrigan

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Damien Hirst, *Hydrocodone*, 2010, Woodblock Engraving with 4" Spots, 65" x 48"

Summer Exhibitions

Spots, Words, & Sounds

Recent Works by Damien Hirst, Mel Bochner, Christian Marclay, Richard Prince, Vik Muniz
June 25th - July 25th

Cameron Gray: *POP!* • Yarg Noremac: *Bursting the Bubble*

Artists in Attendance: July 30th, 6 - 8 p.m.

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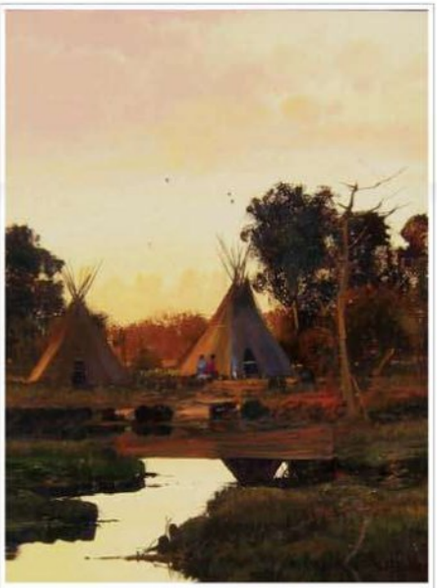
BLAH, BLAH, BLAH,
AH, AH, AH,



Nicholas Coleman, *Buffalo Days*, oil on board, 16 in x 12 in. Valley Fine Art.

6.18.10
Joseph Scheer: New Prints. **David Floria Gallery, 970-544-5705**

6.18.10
Jewelry trunk show featuring Elizabeth Showers. "True beauty isn't what we see in the mirror but what is inside all of us... it is important to remind all women to feel good about themselves daily." June 18 & 19. **Elliott Yeary Gallery, 970-429-1111**

6.25.10
Spots, Words & Sounds - recent works by Damien Hirst, Mel Bochner, Christian Marclay, Richard Prince and Vik Muniz. June 25–July 25. **Galerie Maximillian, 970-925-6100**

Check out ArtAspen this August!

6.28.10
Group exhibition featuring artists Jessica Ralston and Kim Wyly. Both artists use symbolism, composition, color, and abstraction to tell a story, express emotion or convey an event, thought or dream. June 28-July 25. **Elliott Yeary Gallery, 970-429-1111**

JULY

7.2.10
First Friday Reception 6-9PM. **Walker Fine Art, 303-355-8955**

7.2.10
Annual Summer Multi-Designer Jewelry Trunk Show with pieces by ARA 24K, Arman, and Grace Chin. July 2-4. **Elliott Yeary Gallery, 970-429-1111**

7.6.10
Betty and George Woodman at the Patton-Malott & Gartner Galleries. Opening reception July 6, 5-7PM. This exhibition showcases the incredible artwork of the Anderson Ranch 2010 National Artist Award Honorees Betty and George Woodman, featuring significant recent works by both artists. Showing through July 30. **Anderson Rnach Art Center, 970-923-3181**

7.6.10
Opening reception for Robert Mapplethorpe and Jennifer Bartlett from 6-8PM, **Baldwin Gallery, 970-920-9797**

7.16.10
James Surls: New Sculptures. **David Floria Gallery, 970-544-5705**

7.16.10
Opening reception for the *2010 Biennial Exhibit.* 6-9PM. Showing through August 28. **Walker Fine Art, 303-355-8955**

7.26.10
An exhibition of new works by Richard Wieth. Original still-lifes and landscapes. The beauty of nature, people, and objects are all painted in a way that evokes life and energy. July 26-August 29. **Elliott Yeary Gallery, 970-429-1111**

7.30.10
Opening with the artisits July 30, 6-8PM. *Cameron Gray: POP!* and *Yarg Noremac: Bursting the Bubble-Original Paintings and Photocollages.* Exhibition through Labor Day. **Galerie Maximillian, 970-925-610**

IMAGES: COURTESY OF VALLEY FINE ART; COURTESY OF ARTASPEN

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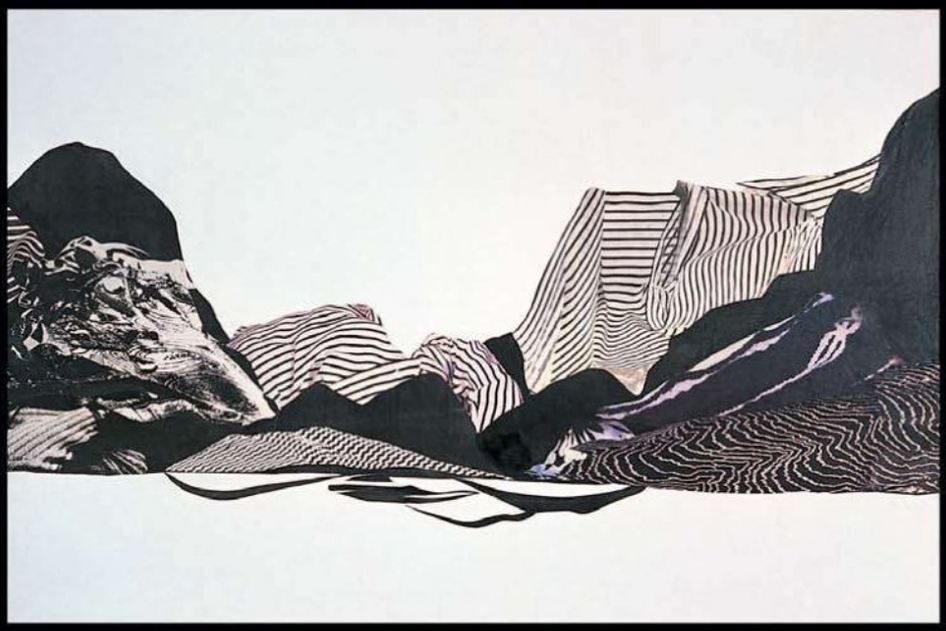

Betty Weiss, "1 of 2," Collage on Canvas, 24 x 36 in.

Betty Weiss, "2 of 2," Collage on Canvas, 24 x 36 in.

Betty Weiss Studio

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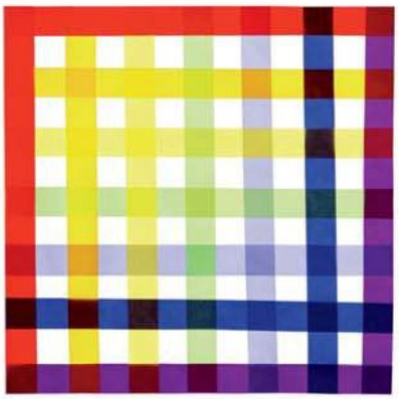

Sarah Charlesworth, *Light Weave*, 2009. Fuji Crystal Archive Print, mounted and laminated with lacquer frame, 16 3/4 in. x 16 3/4 in. Anderson Ranch Art Center

7.30.10
Opening and reception for Carroll Dunham and Sarah Charlesworth from 6-8PM, **Balwin Gallery, 970-920-9797**

AUGUST

8.5.10
ArtAspen Champagne Preview Brunch benefiting Anderson Ranch. 11AM-12:30PM, $35 at the door. Aspen Ice Garden. **ArtAspen, 800-211-0640**

8.5.10
ArtAspen Opening Preview Party benefiting the Buddy Program. 5-8 PM, $75 at the door. Aspen Ice Garden. **ArtAspen, 800-211-0640**

Mary Lee Bendolph, *Passing*, 2007. color softground and spitbite aquatint etching with chine colle Kozo, 39 in x 43 in., Edition 50, David Floria Gallery

8.6.10
First Friday Reception 6-9PM. **Walker Fine Art, 303-355-8955**

8.6.10
ArtAspen: Friday, August 6, 12:30-6PM. Saturday, August 7, 11AM-6 PM. Sunday, August 8, 11AM-6PM. Purchase advance discount tickets at art-aspen.com. **ArtAspen, 800-211-0640**

8.13.10
Allison Stewart: New Paintings. **David Floria Gallery, 970-544-5705**

8.13.10
Valley Fine Art and the City of Aspen proudly present *Small Miracles*, a benefit show for the Right Door. On view all day, Opening Reception 5-9 PM. **Valley Fine Art, 970-920-9193**

8.2.10
2010 30th Anniversary Art Auction Preview Exhibition at the Patton-Malott & Gartner Galleries. Opening reception August 3, 5-7PM. Preview the artwork by national, international and Roaring Fork Valley artists that will be for available for purchase in the 30th Anniversary Art Auction on August 14th. Showing through August 7. **Anderson Ranch Art Center, 970-923-3181**

8.20.10
Heaven Can Wait at the Patton-Malott Gallery. Opening reception August 20, 5-7PM. This exhibition features the incredibly diverse work of the talented Anderson Ranch artistic staff. Showing through September 24. **Anderson Ranch Art Center, 970-923-3181**

8.20.10
Elizabeth Ferrill: Your Name Here Gideon Gartner Gallery. Opening reception August 20, 5-7PM. This solo exhibition features select work by Anderson Ranch Painting and Printmaking Studio Coordinator Elizabeth Ferrill. Showing through September 24. **Anderson Ranch Art Center, 970-923-3181**

WEBSITES

ANDERSON RANCH ARTS CENTER
andersonranch.org

ARTASPEN
art-aspen.com

ASPEN ART MUSEUM
aspenartmuseum.org

BALDWIN GALLERY
baldwingallery.com

BETTY WEISS STUDIO
bettyweiss.com

DAVID FLORIA GALLERY
floriagallery.com

ELLIOTT YEARY
elliottyeary.com

GALERIE MAXIMILLIAN
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TANIA DIBBS
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VALLEY FINE ART
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GALLERY GUIDE
aspenmagazine.com/guide/gallery

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May 21 – July 18, 2010

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Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration and Parade

AAM Float Artist: Dave McKenzie

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1:30 p.m.
Picnic on the AAM Grounds

Marlo Pascual

July 30 – October 3, 2010

2010 Jane and Marc Nathanson Distinguished Artist in Residence

Sergej Jensen

July 30 – October 10, 2010

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October 22 – November 28, 2010

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ART! ART! ART! ASPEN IS AN ART TOWN, ALL YEAR LONG. A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT OPENINGS:

VALLEY FINE ART

Mia Valley owner of Valley Fine Art and artist Woodrow Blagg

Dan Ford

ANN KOROLOGOS

Owner Ann Korologos and artist Sybil Hill

GALERIE MAXIMILLIAN

Albert Sanford and Janet O'Grady celebrated all things creative at this Aspen Fashion Week event, honoring artists of the Turner Prize—Grayson Perry, Damien Hirst, Gary Hume, Anish Kapoor, Jake & Dinos Chapman, and Peter Doig, March 17.

Galerie Maximillian owner, Albert Sanford and Editor in Chief, Janet O'Grady

Molly Eckrich and Linda Chadbourne

Michelle Bryan, Michael Tebo, Jason Kahout and Todd Devan

Claudia Connell of M Salon and Joshua Landis Aspen Real Estate

Lulu's Hannah Sweets and Folami Small

PHOTOS: CARLIE RUBINO; LETICIA HANKE

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Siam and Joël Castillo

Tina Smith of James Perse and Stephanie Williams

VALLEY FINE ART

Owner Mia Valley, artist Theodore Waddell, and Katherine O'Herron

DAVID FLORIA

Lissa Ballinger and owner David Floria at the opening of Robert and Shana ParkeHarrison

BALDWIN GALLERY

Mike Starn, Anne Pasternak, and Debra & Dennis Scholl

Aspen Art Museum

Aspen Art Museum National Council members Robert and Soledad Hurst

Aspen Art Museum National Council members and 2009 AAM Major Donor honorees June and Paul Schorr with exhibiting artist Mark Bradford

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TANIA DIBBS

"Rush" 48" x 48" oil on canvas, 2010

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gallery: 414 East Hyman Avenue Mall in Aspen, 970-925-1343
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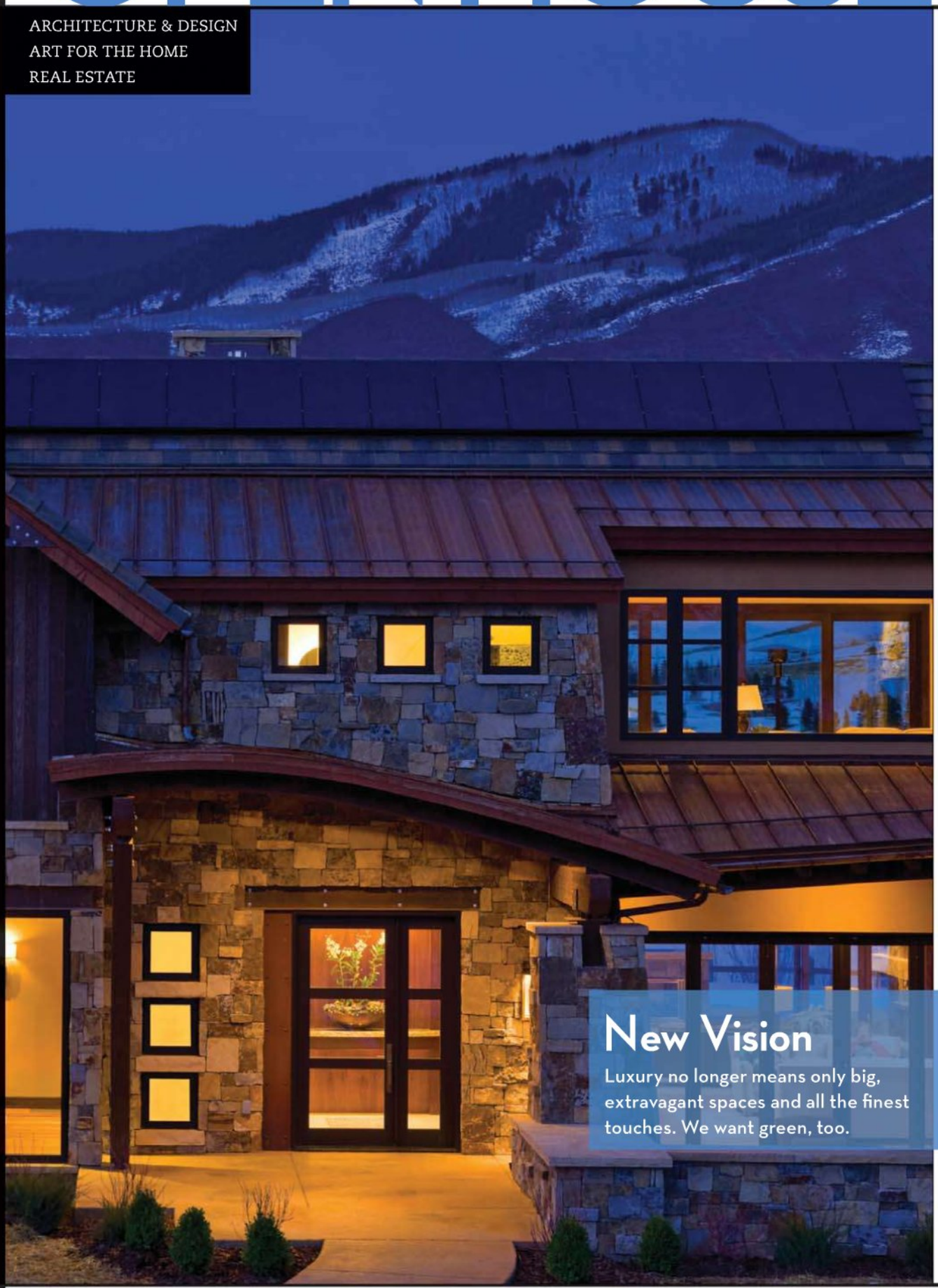

New Vision

Luxury no longer means only big, extravagant spaces and all the finest touches. We want green, too.

PHOTOS: VISION HOUSE/PATRICK COULIE

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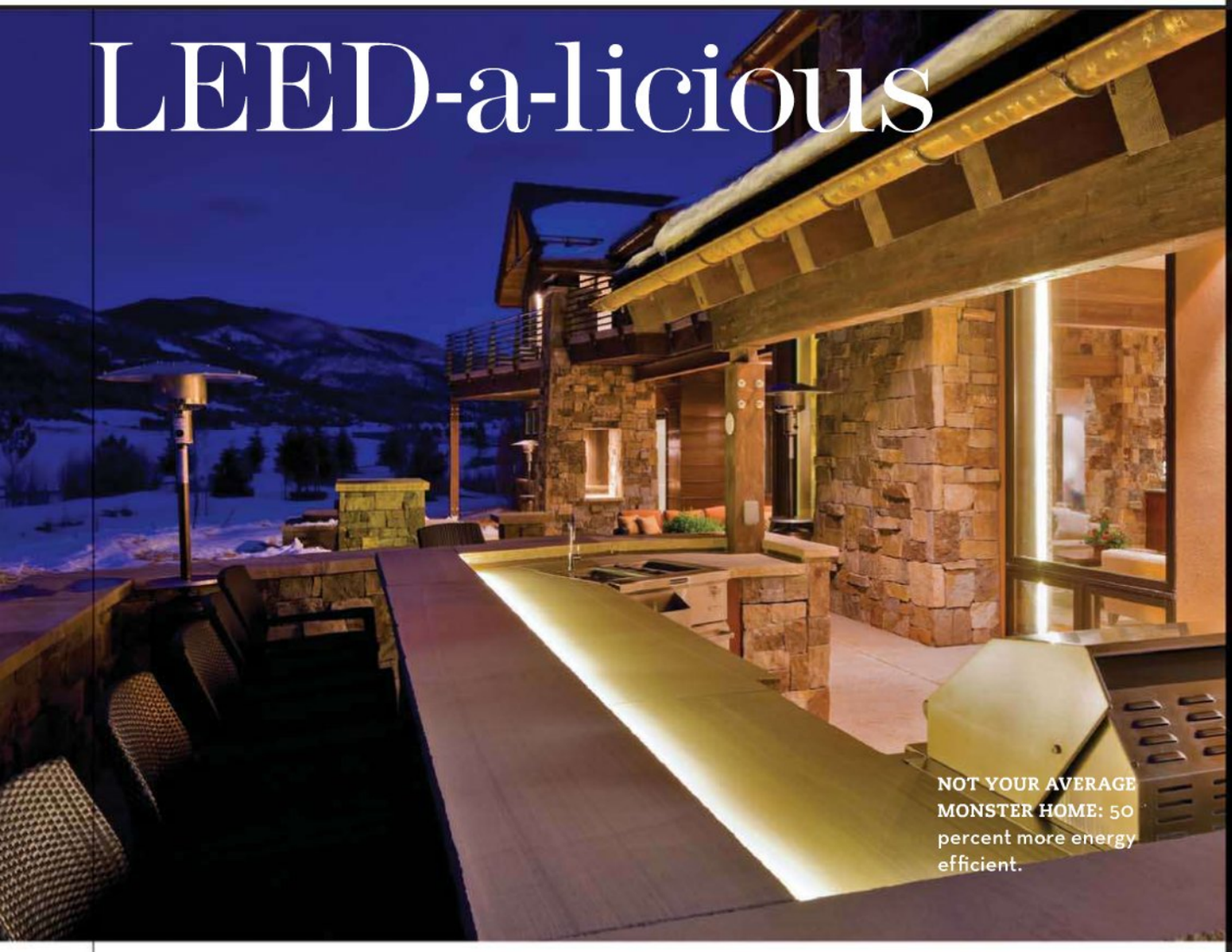

NOT YOUR AVERAGE MONSTER HOME: 50 percent more energy efficient.

Can you have luxury *and* energy efficiency?

BY SUZANNE FARVER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PATRICK COULIE

GERRY HAZELBAKER HAD A VISION for a "glamorously green" home in Aspen. He felt he could provide one with the luxury and quality that discriminating Aspen homebuyers demand, but he hoped to show it could be done more sustainably, and with a smaller energy footprint. With the help of his architect, Stace McGee, and with Green Builder Media, he may have accomplished this feat: the VISION House Aspen.

Though many argue that smaller is better, there's a continual demand in our valley for large homes. The trick is to build one that meets the market's demand for expansive spaces and luxurious surroundings but that also reduces the guilt factor. The VISION House Aspen is far from small, and it certainly boasts plenty of creature comforts, but it isn't your usual Aspen "monster" home. Topping out at 6,700 square feet (or close to 7,500 when the three-car garage is included), it is 50 percent more energy-efficient than typical homes its size, and it is largely constructed from materials that are either recycled or responsibly resourced.

How did this work?

With an array of print and online resources, Green Builder Media is the leading company for green building, and they sponsor VISION HOMES around the country. Most of its projects are smaller in scale, but the opportunity to reach out to an Aspen clientele was too tempting to ignore. The company connects manufacturers with builders and strives to attract

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homebuyers to make use of more responsible and efficient products. The manufacturers benefit from the marketing of these products; the builder benefits from their reduced cost. In the case of the Aspen VISION House, for example, about half of a million dollars worth of goods or materials were contributed.

Perhaps as a result of this arrangement, Aspen's model home may seem to offer almost too much of a good thing, especially when it comes to appliances. It's encouraging that most of them are Energy Star qualified, but there seems to be a refrigerator in practically every room—the pantry, the master bedroom, the downstairs bar, the upstairs bar (plus two wine refrigerators), the garage, and even outside. You don't need to walk more than 20 paces to find a cold one! Perhaps this is what the market wants, but it seems a bit over the top.

The Goal of LEED Gold Certification

Stace McGee is a longtime member of the United States Green Building Council, developers of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification program. He convinced Hazelbaker that

Builders hope the home will become one of only a handful of LEED Gold-certified homes in Colorado.

such certification would be a plus for marketing this home, guaranteeing to the buyer that it was built to top specifications.

As of this writing, the Aspen VISION House has not been completely landscaped, so a final tally of LEED points earned cannot be done. Nonetheless, the builders expect to be awarded LEED Gold certification, a highly coveted award; indeed, there fewer than a dozen such homes in Colorado today. Getting to LEED Gold is no easy feat for a 6,700-square-foot home. Right out of the starting blocks, the builders faced a difficult hurdle, as the LEED program sets a higher bar for larger homes, making them earn 20 extra points to gain certification. You may wonder, therefore, if the builders chased points to get the Gold. In some cases, perhaps they did, but in others they actually gave up points in favor of what they felt were more responsible choices that LEED does not recognize.

One such choice, for example, was the use of beetle-killed pine for the house's siding. Remarkably, LEED does not recognize beetle-killed wood as a responsibly harvested building material. Instead, to gain points, the wood must be certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as being sustainably harvested.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 171

RAISING THE BAR: With sustainable materials and efficient heating and cooling. *Above* south-facing windows have automated window shades.

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SHADOWROCK TOWNHOMES

Conveniently located mid-valley, these recently built town-homes feature high end finishes, upscale lighting, wood flooring, granite counters, and stainless steel appliances. Three bedroom townhomes are available – ranging from 1664-2273 square feet. Priced to sell! $550,000 - $670,000

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SOME SELECTED IMAGES FOR LIVING

ELLIOTT YEARY GALLERY

With an eye for the simple beauty of life, Richard Wieth has spent more than 37 years perfecting his artistic voice and style. While best known for his still life paintings -unusual arrangements of fruits and flowers in a dream-like style - Wieth says he has found a new freedom in painting landscapes. Many of the oil paintings feature the scenery of the Roaring Fork Valley, such as "Colorado Gold" and "Fall Rings." ***419 E. Hyman Ave., 970-429-1111. elliottyeary.com***

ANN KOROLOGOS GALLERY

Cheri Christensen plays with color, light, and texture to bring the everyday relationship between animals and landscape to life on her canvases. Featured in Western Art Collector Magazine, Southwest Art Magazine *and* In Focus *magazine, Christensen's oil paintings remind us of the essentials: simplicity of life on the farm. 211 Midland Ave., Basalt,* ***970-927-9668. basaltgallery.com***

WALKER FINE ART GALLERY

For Spanish-born artist Quim Bove, color and energy are important elements of his practice. Fond of the Renaissance palette, Bove layers and blends his colors with great vigor before adding his signature touch, a high gloss resin finish, to each painting. "Humans are entities of energy that move and travel throughout time in history," Bove says. The shapes, colors, and textures of his work are his "search for an expression of a relationship between man and universe." ***300 West 11th Ave., Denver, 303-355-8955. walkerfineart.com***

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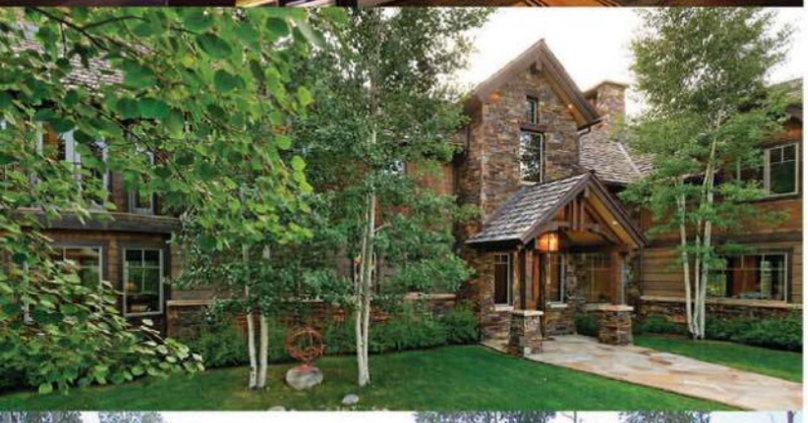

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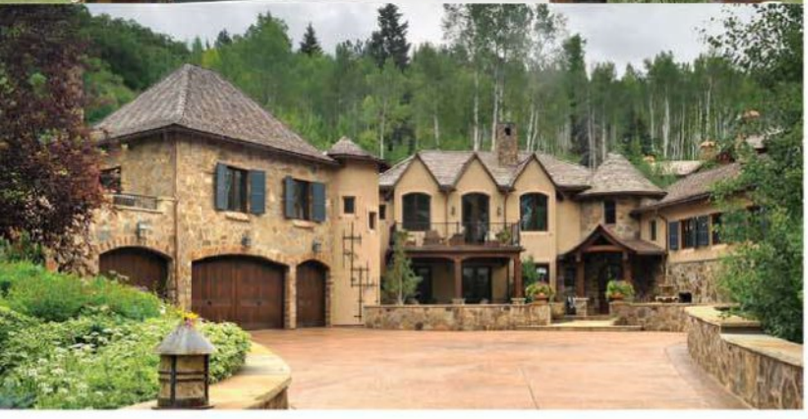
$9,950,000 Furnished



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PRICING

What's It Worth?

by Matthew Malone

IN THE FRENETIC, rah-rah days of 2006, sellers of Aspen real estate worried little about mispricing their homes. Comparable sales were plentiful, and even if one wasn't available, demand was such that too low an asking price would quickly be rectified by a flurry of bids from buyers flush with cash and credit.

Four years later, sales have slowed to a trickle, and as far as asking prices go, "too low" seems an anachronism. Indeed, the task of coming to a suitable asking price has become more complicated than it's been in decades. Despite signs of improvement—dollar volume of home sales, at $120.5 million in the first quarter of 2010, was up 35 percent over a year ago—valuing one's home has become as rigorous as a hike up the face of Ajax.

So how to make sure your price is grounded in reality? In the absence of good comparable sales data, Tim Estin, a broker associate at Mason Morse who writes the popular Estin Report and blog, follows a step-by-step approach. "First comes an assessment of replacement value–the estimated value of the land plus the cost of construction. But with little raw land selling these days, that number is often elusive," Estin says. Next might come an income valuation, which generally is difficult in Aspen with the relative dearth of properties, particularly at the high end, that generate rental income.

"Lacking such information, one can take a more macro approach, " Estin says. He advises sellers to consider which neighborhoods are selling better than others and how their neighborhood compares.

"A good broker would suggest strongly that if the seller is a real seller–motivated but not desperate, no bank issues looming, no imminent foreclosure–then proper pricing strategy would dictate they be preemptive or ahead of the pack," Estin says.

When factoring in the quality of the home, its age, and any unique attributes, its price should be relatively low compared to its neighbors. Pricing should represent the best value proposition to the buyer–the best quality at the best price. Estin cites last year's sale of a $43 million house on Willoughby Way as an example of a seller who knew that his home had unique value and stuck to a high price. "The home was 16,000 square feet," Estin says. "You'd never get approval to build that size home again."

"Determining the price is only the first step," says BJ Adams, owner of BJ Adams and Company. Adams helps sellers by giving them a look at types of properties likely to be shown to buyers alongside their own, while also giving them pointers on how to make their home stand out. "Sellers in the market today have to realize they're not only in a price war, but in a beauty contest as well," she says.

CALL IT THE INDICTMENT DISCOUNT... A home at 781 Meadowood Drive recently closed for $4 million after being listed for $7.995 million in December 2007. The owner, Pamela Phillips, is charged with murder for hire in the 1996 pipe-bomb death of her ex-husband, Gary Triano.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ISTOCK

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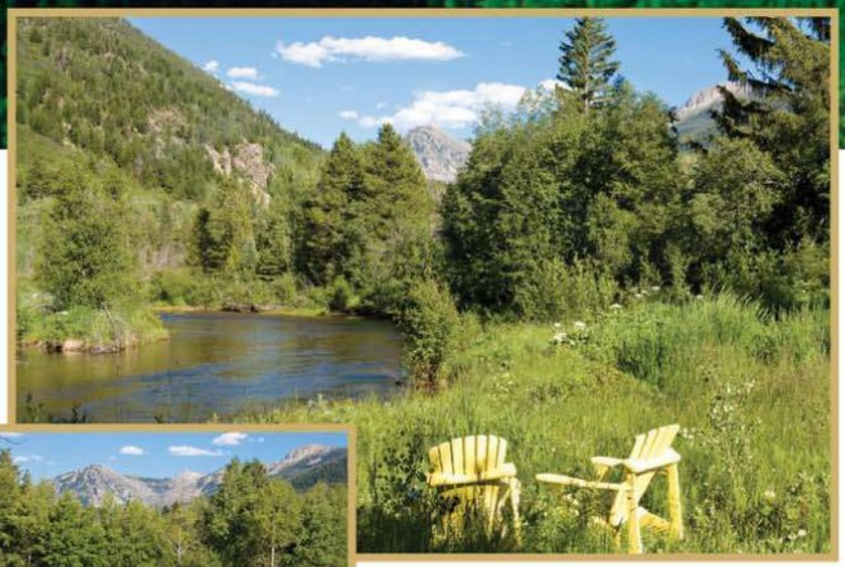
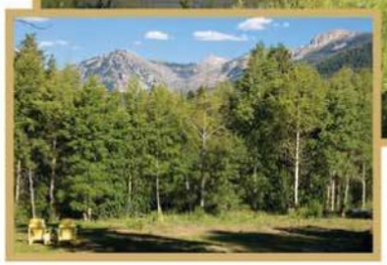
It's not enough to *have* the dream. Ultimately, you must *live* it.





CARRIE WELLS

150 Difficult Lane, Aspen

The McFarlane parcel at Morningstar. Rare 2.26 acres on the Roaring Fork River. Experience paradise on the water with expansive views toward Independence Pass. Approved plans and vesting in place for an 8,750-sf home. $3,495,000

708 East Hyman, Aspen

Located just three blocks from the Gondola right in the center of town, and the convenience of core-living cannot be overstated. This three-bedroom townhome has been completely renovated with a warm, exciting contemporary palette. And from the moment you enter the home you are enveloped with sensuous finishes, ebony-stained wood floors, stainless steel custom cabinetry, furniture-grade built-ins, artisan tile and stonework, and more, including a large, open chef's kitchen and adjacent dining area. The home encompasses three levels with outdoor terraces off the master and guest master bedrooms. The townhome comes complete with an office, two-car garage and snowmelt driveway and entry walk. $4,995,000

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2156 Maroon Creek Road

This contemporary custom residence is as breathtaking as its views from Pyramid Peak to the ski runs of Aspen Highlands. With views from every room, this home showcases modern architecture on 5.5 acres, all above grade. With an open floor plan, this residence features 4 bedrooms and 4½ baths, mature landscaping including the water of Willow Creek, walls of glass trimmed in mahogany, and French limestone flooring and large outdoor terraces. The gourmet kitchen has chef-grade appliances and custom mahogany cabinetry. The living room features two seating areas and a floor-to-ceiling zinc fireplace. Numerous outdoor patios are finished in Colorado sandstone, and it is just a seven-minute drive to the center of Aspen and a minute to Aspen Highlands. $5,500,000

20 Maroon Court, Aspen

This refined new contemporary home at the Aspen Tennis Club has appeal on every level from the stylish finish materials to the thoughtful floor plan. The home offers a serene feeling with not only 360-degree views of the surrounding mountain ranges, but also commanding views of the Maroon Bells. Large master suite, open and light family spaces, and all within minutes of downtown Aspen and all ski mountains. $6,495,000

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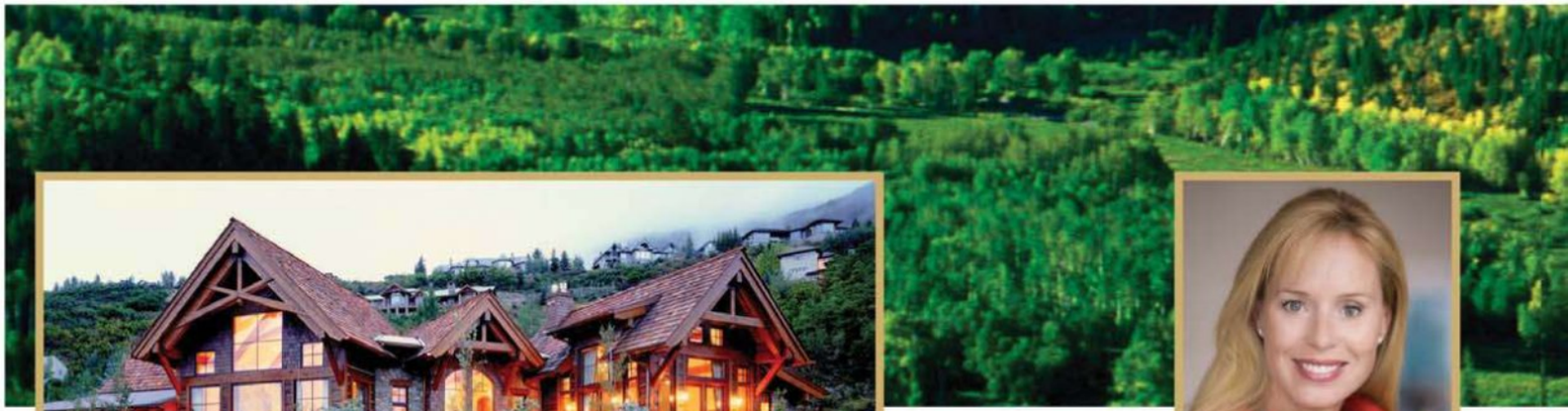
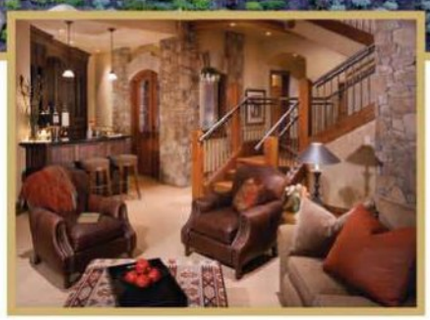


CARRIE WELLS

27 Nighthawk, Aspen



Nestled on an easily accessible lot on the coveted Ridge of Red Mountain, this beautifully furnished 5150-square-foot four-bedroom home, with four full and two half-baths, has everything the most discerning family could want. Built in 2002, the home features an oversized master suite separated from the living area, a spacious guest master suite, an open kitchen with adjacent breakfast nook and dining area, second family area complete with a bar and walk-in wine room, a media room with stadium seating, a smart AMX audio control system throughout, and an oversized two-car garage with extra storage room. Outdoor areas include expansive patio terraces with grill, firepit, and hot tub, making this the perfect retreat in winter or summer. Mature landscaped lawn and trees with south facing 180 degree views. $6,450,000

75 Overlook Drive, Aspen

At the top of Overlook Drive, with views spanning from Independence Pass to Buttermilk, lies this stylish, sophisticated and private residence. A study in contemporary Josef Hoffman–inspired design, this 4-bedroom home demands a discriminating eye for style and an appreciation for a residence designed to showcase art and views. Guest house, indoor swimming pool, high-tech lighting, and furniture-grade cabinetry made from exotic woods are just some of the features of this custom home. $6,850,000

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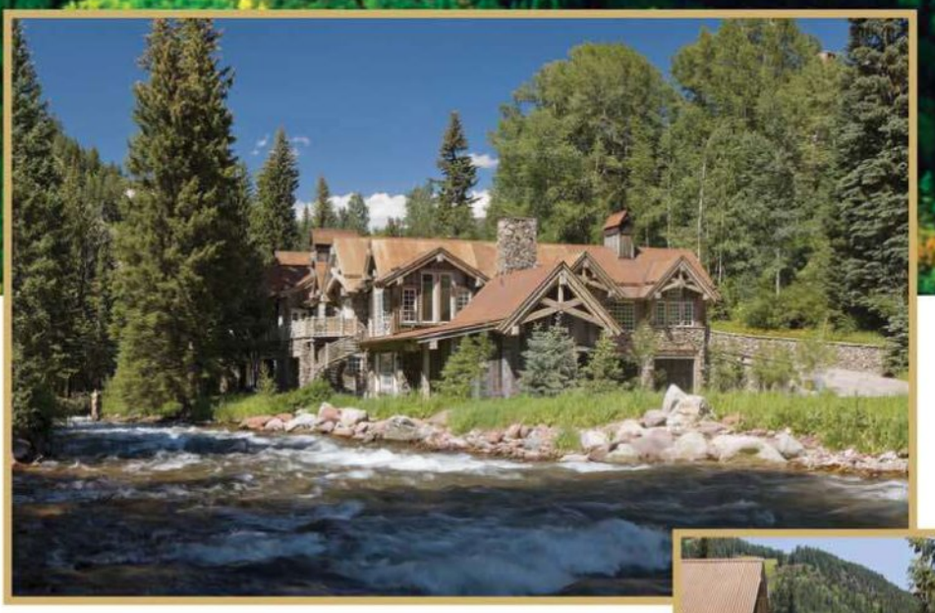

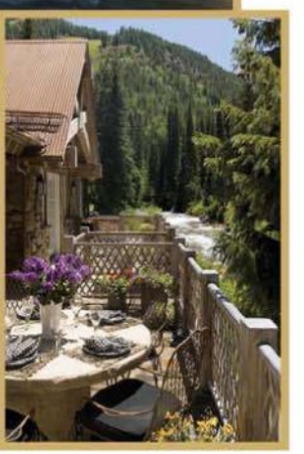

Maroon Creek Residence

Nestled on the banks of Maroon Creek, steps away from world-class skiing, lies a distinctive new European country home. The 15,000-square-foot residence is entirely above grade in a secluded setting. Constructed of imported Pennsylvania fieldstone, antique beams and siding and reclaimed hardwood flooring, this romantic home provides the feeling of a remote location. The well-appointed country home has six generously sized bedroom suites, seven bathrooms and three powder rooms. Five bedrooms feature French doors for immediate access to coveted views along the river, and the master suite includes two fireplaces providing luxurious comfort. The oversized kitchen features custom cabinets, honed granite countertops, and a picturesque balcony overlooking the river. The home touts two grand staircases, eleven fireplaces, a four-car garage, an elevator and an attached carriage house. $29,500,000

114 Neale, Aspen

Situated on a 6,000-square-foot corner lot just a few blocks from the center of Aspen, this charming 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home is a beautiful historic house with contemporary features. The Victorian façade leads into a bright, modern living area with vaulted ceilings and conversational spaces. An open kitchen with clean lines, stainless appliances, and gorgeous hardwood flooring is ideal for entertaining friends and family. Out back, intimate patio and deck spaces look onto the calm of a private pond and immaculately landscaped yard. $2,995,000

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Real Assets

ASPEN PREMIER ESTATE

Rustic, old-world country French style interior and nestled up to the edge of the Maroon Creek valley. This estate is situated in a private, peaceful setting but yet within walking distance to the Tiehack Lift. The home includes five bedrooms and five baths; two master suites and three exquisite separate bedrooms, each with their own character. Enjoy the lively combination of colors, the luxurious furnishings and top of the line appliances, systems and stone and granite finishes. Lower level includes an entertainment area with an expansive bar and wine cellar, billiards table, foosball table and media room with huge flat screen television. Enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings outside of the residence. You can hear the peaceful flow of the river as you enjoy an afternoon on the patio, which overlooks the nearby golf course and mountains.

Offered for $11,225,000

ROARING FORK HORSE RANCH

This 16-Acre gentlemen's horse ranch borders thousands of acres of public land for horseback riding, hunting and recreational enjoyment. The main house boasts five bedrooms, five and one-half baths, six fireplaces and a wine cellar. The four-stall barn includes a tack room, office and one-bedroom caretaker apartment. There are five irrigated acres of pasture with extensive water rights and a riding arena.

Originally offered for: $10,950,000
Now offered for: $6,950,000

HISTORIC SNOWMASS CANYON RANCHES

Against all odds, acres in Snowmass Canyon have survived the ravages of time and development within a virtual time capsule. Since the original 1891 homestead, this property has had just three owners. This unspoiled land spans the second largest privately held river frontage between Old Snowmass and Aspen; a mile of the Roaring Fork River designated as Gold Medal fishing. Three spring fed trout ponds. Controlled access to thousands of acres of range on national Forest and BLM lands. Senior water rights, modern broadcast irrigation and two wells make for fertile ground and living. The property consists of two 141-acre parcels. Each parcel allows a home up to 8,250 square feet with the purchase of a TDR.* (*TDRs are not included in the sale)

Originally offered for: $14,210,000
Now offered for: $11,500,000

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WEST END MOUNTAIN RETREAT

Mountain Style, Mountain Living, Mountain Views! Enjoy large open living spaces with views of Highlands and to the west. This four bedroom, four bathroom, two powder room home is perfect for a single person or a family. The floor plan is versatile and allows for 1, 2 or 3 level living. Windows and decks abound providing the home with vast amounts of natural light and year round outdoor living. There is a separate caretaker quarters with separate entrance. The home is air conditioned.

Originally offered for: $5,750,000
Now offered for: $5,495,000

CONTEMPORARY MASTERPIECE

New four bedroom, four bath, contemporary, energy efficient home that sits on 1.5 acres high above Woody Creek. This home is only ten minutes from Aspen yet is surrounded on all sides by open space. Each room was carefully planned to take advantage of the views and accessibility to the outdoors. Open living spaces, top of the line finishes and sustainable features create a perfect environment. Custom built-in cabinets, custom two-sided fireplace, custom alfresco kitchen/living area, Hybrid lighting system, solar hot water panels and recycled materials throughout are just a few of the features of this home.

Offered for: $5,295,000

SNOWBUNNY DUPLEX

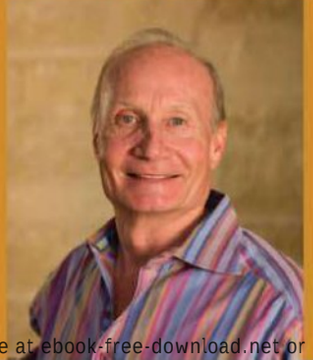
This rustic mountain duplex offers big views towards Independence Pass and Red Mountain over undeveloped land, as well as a seasonal stream. These five bedroom, six bath units are designed to live as single family homes. All of the luxuries you would expect from a new Aspen home are present including air conditioning, radiant heat, study, wine cellar, media room and a large family recreation room.

Originally offered for: $6,950,000
1240 now offered for: $4,145,000
1242 now offered for: $4,178,000

WEST END LOTS

Ajax mountain views Rare opportunity to own two 6,000 square foot lots next to each other in the West End. Both lots are ready for excavation. Both lots are vacant and have had all old improvements removed. Preliminary architectural plans have been completed and are available for review. Tree mitigation fees have been paid, but the trees have not been removed.

Originally offered for: $3,095,000 each
Now offered for: $2,895,000 each



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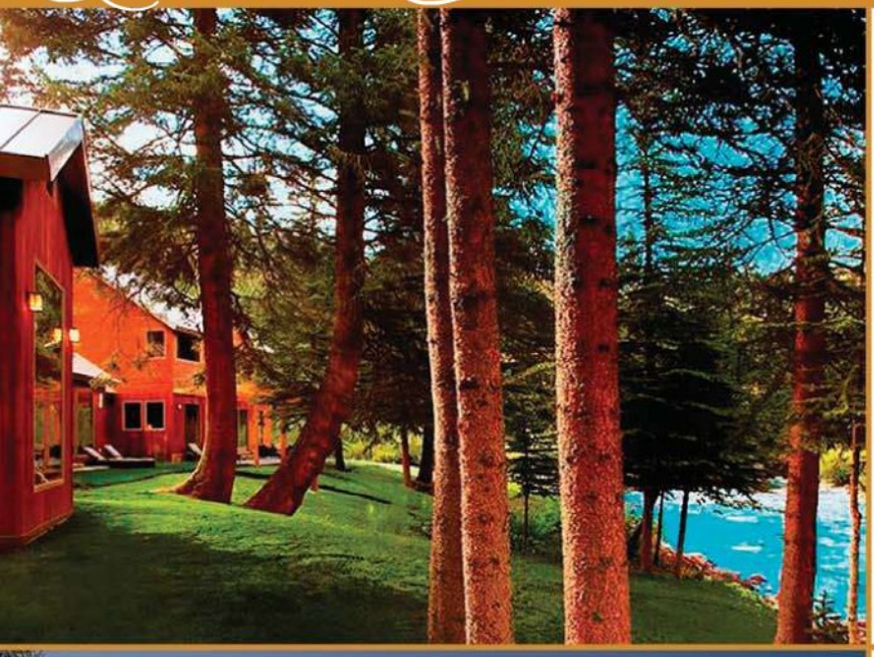


EDGEWATER

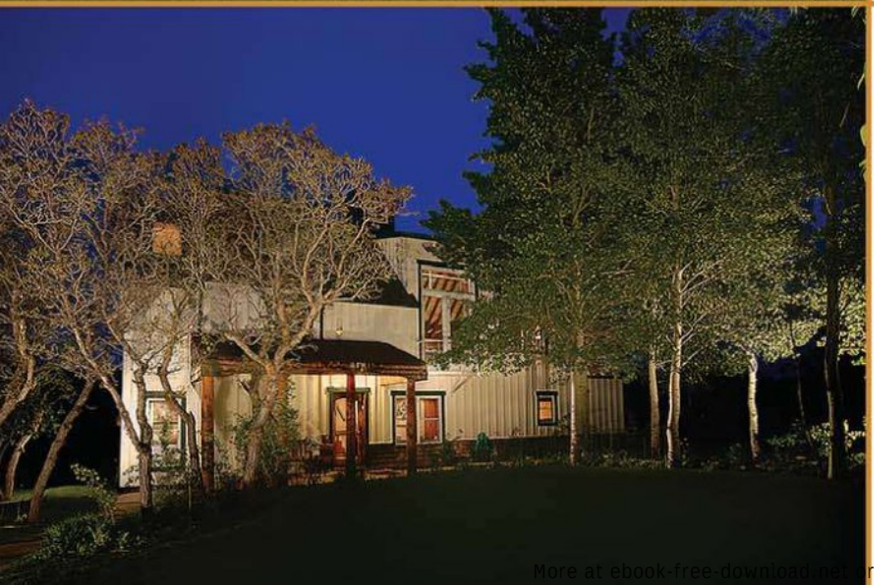
Award winning riverfront home on two flat private acres. This four bedroom home is nestled up to Castle Creek and is extremely private yet just minutes to downtown Aspen. The contemporary style home has open living spaces with glass walls and large windows that create a dramatic setting, bringing the river into the design and creating a naturally light environment. The two level home includes a great room, living room, office with the master bedroom on the main level and a guest master and two additional bedrooms upstairs with a central media room. This home was designed with top of the line finishes including antique teak wood, various stones, maple wood floors, an intricate weave of wood in parts of the ceiling, custom fireplaces, and a beautiful kitchen. THIS HOME IS TRULY ONE OF A KIND!

Originally offered for $12,500,000
Now offered for $9,250,000

RIVER'S EDGE

Gorgeous riverfront property on five acres located just ten minutes from Aspen and Snowmass. This two level immaculate home features four bedrooms, four baths and has an open floor plan which is ideal for entertaining. Enjoy river views from every room enhanced with beautiful gardens and landscaping. The property enables a wide range of outdoor activities as there is excellent access to the river and room for horses. Water rights with plans for a pond included.

Originally offered for: $3,999,000
Now offered for: $3,695,000



TOP OF BRUSH CREEK

Beautiful remodeled home that sits on 3.2 acres at the top of Brush Creek. Enjoy the incredible views of Aspen Mountain, Independence Pass and Red Mountain from the large deck. Main house includes four bedrooms, four bathrooms plus an office/fifth bedroom. In addition to the main house, separate structure includes two car garage, one bedroom, one bathroom caretaker unit and an additional room with full bathroom. Property has a large yard with children's play area and half sized basketball court.

Originally offered for $3,390,000
Now offered for $2,990,000

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

MOUNTAIN ELEGANCE

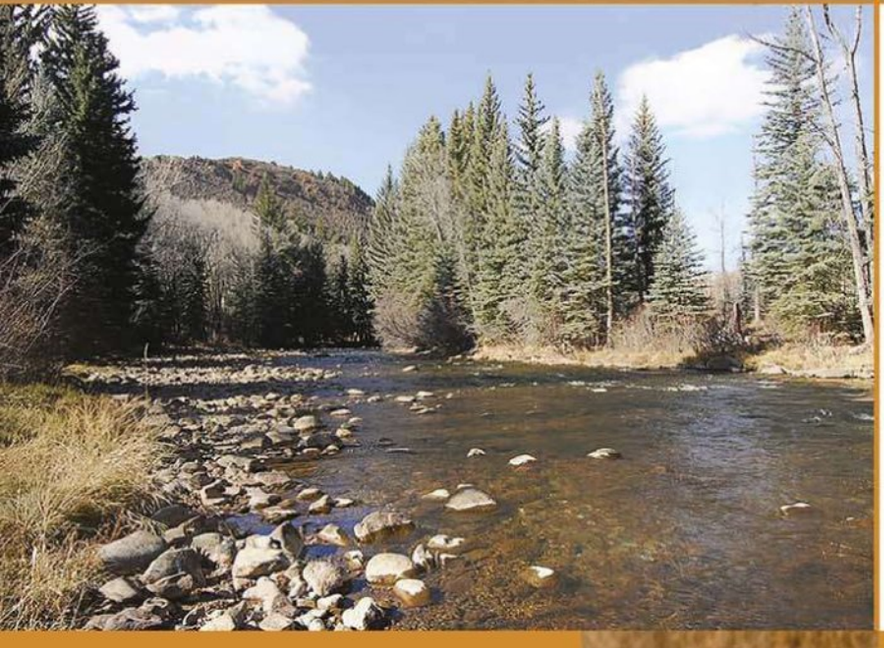
Sophisticated mountain home with fantastic views of Aspen Mountain, Independence Pass and Mount Sopris. This turnkey three-bedroom home has a comfortable, casual and elegant design. The home includes open living spaces, a media room, 1,000 bottle wine room, and an elevator. Top of the line finishes including; 170 year old reclaimed beams from England, granites, marbles, limestone, hardwood floors, alder doors and custom iron work. The back patio has an outdoor wood burning fireplace, BBQ, hot tub, and outdoor speakers. The exterior of the home was built with materials that need very little maintenance. Convenient location to Aspen and all it has to offer!

Originally offered for: $4,995,000
Now offered for: $4,495,000

SOPRIS MOUNTAIN RANCH

Beautiful custom log home with a granite stone fireplace, hand crafted wood work throughout which sits on over 35 acres. The open rooms and vaulted ceilings give this home a true lodge feel. One of the few properties within Sopris Mountain Ranch that allows horses! This ranch includes a separate 3 stall barn with loft and space for ranch equipment and toys, your own private pasture with horse run, shed and spring fed pond. Sopris Mt Ranch offers natural environment and open spaces while providing unique recreational and lifestyle opportunities.

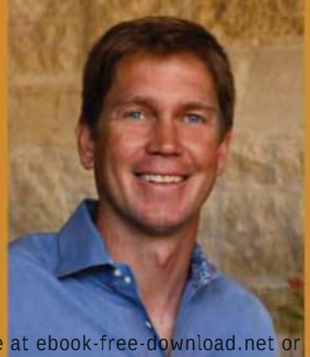
Originally offered for: $3,900,000
Now offered for $3,100,000



ASPEN RIVER PROPERTY

Unique opportunity to have it all... location, river, views, sun and open space! Current one level home is livable and clean. Remodel or redevelopment opportunity for just under 5,000 square feet above grade plus below grade space on a beautiful flat lot with utilities in place. Lots of sun, RARE for river front property. Partial views of Aspen Mountain, Buttermilk, Red Mountain and towards Independence Pass. Just minutes to downtown Aspen and only a short walk to the Rio Grande Trail. Must see to appreciate.

Offered for: $4,995,000



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Carol Dopkin Real Estate, Inc.

122 West Main Street, Aspen, CO 81611 Office: 970.920.1186 www.caroldopkin.com

Real Estate with Horse Sense...

Aspen Opportunity!

15,500 square foot lot zoned duplex/triplex with nice views of Buttermilk Mountain. This lot is actually quite private with flat terrain for easy building. There is an older duplex on site that can be rented while you get plans in place. You must walk on this property to appreciate all the possibilities! **Offered for $2,500,000.**

10 Acre McLain Flats Estate

Panoramic views of the ski mountains and major peaks yet little to no impact from the road and airport. Beautiful yet practical new 4 bedroom home, all above grade. The new 3 stall Morton barn has a 2 bedroom apartment above and has a fenced irrigated pasture. **This custom home is furnished for $11,500,000. www.MinutesFromAspen.info**

Aspen Contemporary Living

Walking distance to town and the shuttle stops at this end unit of the attractive town home complex. This exceptional 3 bedroom 2.5 bath 2,700 sq. ft. home features vaulted ceilings, skylights, granite countertops, oversized master and 2 car garage. Great open space with Aspen Mtn. views. **Price Reduced! ~~$3,395,000~~ $3,200,000. www.AspenOpportunity.info**

Aspen Duplex / Development

This duplex adjoins Fox Crossing, a beautiful new Aspen community. It can be rented while you work on a redevelopment plan - perfect for a new duplex or a single family home with guest house. With a total of 5 bedrooms (2 on one side, 3 on the other) and just a short walk to town. **Offered for $3,250,000 (originally $4.5 million). www.AspenDevelopment.info**

Aspen 3 Bedroom Town Home

Grab your skis and get comfortable in this beautifully designed and fully furnished 3 bedroom South facing end unit conveniently located in the Aspen Core. Complete with a gas stove, copper farm sink, steam shower, flat screen TVs, air conditioning, washer/dryer and more. **A must-see! Price Reduced! ~~$1,750,000~~ $1,590,000. www.SMonarchTownhome.info**

Ranch Life without the Work!

4 bedroom 4.5 bath farmhouse with a separate caretaker apartment. Feels totally separate but still is part of Sopris Mountain Ranch and all that it offers. The views of Mount Sopris are the best! With the main house, artist's studio, a barn, 3-way shed and a pond. A great get-away! **Offered for $2,500,000. www.RanchWithViews.info**

Views in Lazy O Ranch

The floor plan flows perfectly for entertaining and family living with the master suite on the main level. Looks out over the 100's of acres of open space. In addition to the 6 bedrooms in the main house there is a one bedroom caretaker's apartment. **Price Reduced! ~~$4,495,000~~ $3,995,000. www.LazyORanch.info**

Convenient Living in Basalt

This beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath plus loft corner unit is within walking distance to restaurants, shopping, park and pool. Featuring an open floor plan with new appliances, vaulted ceilings, lots of natural light, gas fireplace and a large deck off the living room. **A great value offered for $637,500. www.BasaltTownHome.info**

Development Opportunity!

Aspen Equestrian Estates horse facility is an unusual opportunity for equestrian and other agricultural/recreation use. Will allow 1 main house and 2 employee units to be built, 2 indoor arenas, 32 stall barn and more. **Price Cut in Half! ~~$5,500,000~~ $2,750,000. www.AspenEquestrianEstates.info**

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An Aspen Tradition for 31 Years!

NEW Luxury Homes at Fox Crossing Aspen

Trouble Free Living: Property Management in place for exterior and grounds. Interior Property management included for the first year. Maid service once a week while in residence for the first year. New construction with 1 year warranty. Concierge services in the first year include airport pick up, stocking service for kitchen needs, reservations and tickets for dining, skiing, music and more. **Amenities:** Health & fitness membership (initiation, first year). Reserved valet parking at the Little Nell included for the first year. **Great City Location and Views:** Close to everything, great views of the ski mountains, unique, exclusive neighborhood of high-end homes. There are 5 homes for sale, and the 2 featured below are ready to move right in! **www.FoxCrossingAspen.com** *Fox Crossing is co-listed with Carol Hood, Mason Morse Real Estate.

Price Reduced!

The Landmark

is on a charming historic Park with views of Aspen Mountain. It can be as many as 7 bedrooms, it also lives nicely as 6 bedrooms plus office or 5 bedrooms plus office and exercise room. With a large family-media room, 6.5 bathrooms, elevator, air conditioning, radiant heat, steam shower, vaulted ceilings, 2 car garage, and more! **Was ~~$8,940,000~~ NOW $7,660,000 - $1,231 per square foot!**

The Olympic

is 4 bedroom, 5,078 square foot home has sensational views of Aspen Mountain, is just a 5 minute walk to the center of town and is convenient to hiking and biking trails. With the best in finishes and interior enhancements including an elevator and air conditioning. If you are a serious buyer you must see this home! **The Olympic was ~~$7,365,000~~ NOW $5,990,000 - $1,179 per square foot!**

Price Reduced!

Front Row to Aspen Mountain

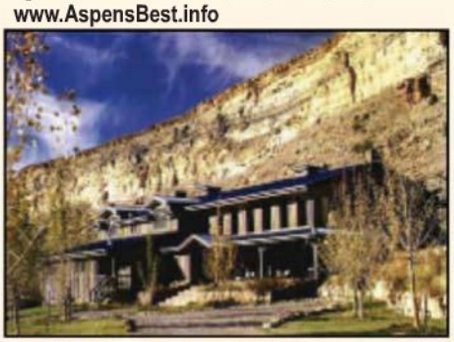
Stylish furnished town home featuring cathedral ceilings allowing views up Aspen and Red Mountains. With 4 bedrooms including 2 elegant master suites each with their own fireplace and sitting areas. Gym, state of the art media room, office, a/c and elevator make this the height of care-free living! **Price Reduced! ~~$10,950,000~~ $8,750,000. www.AspensBest.info**

Excellent Value - Lift One

The ultimate penthouse in downtown Aspen! Fully furnished 3 bedroom 3 bath at the base of Aspen Mountain featuring an elevator, swimming pool, hot tub, skylights, wrap around deck and more. Beautifully renovated to walk right in and have nothing else to do but enjoy yourself! **Price Reduced! ~~$2,500,000~~ $1,995,000. www.LiftOne.info**

High Aspen Ranch - Lot 6

This is one of the best lots in High Aspen Ranch! On 39.5 acres with expansive views to build your very own dream ranch. With numerous trails over the 1,200-acre ranch, a common area with barn for and corral for horses, ranch manager, club house, and tennis courts. **Offered for $995,000, Motivated Seller! www.HighAspenRanch.info**

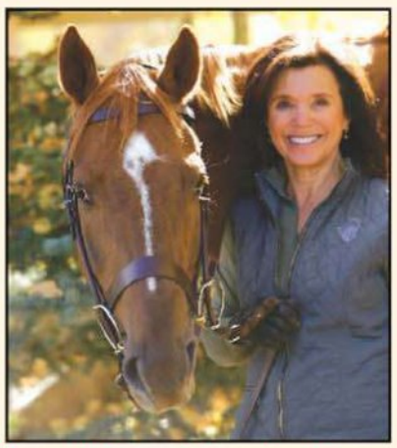


Canyon Ranch: 667 Acres

Exquisite setting with privacy and views. Plenty of water with creeks, ponds, irrigation, the Smith Fork running through the property and a jetport within minutes, this absolutely beautiful fully furnished home is waiting for you. The adjoining Sunrise Ranch is also available, call for details! **Offered for $8,750,000. www.CanyonRanchCO.info**

Aspen Alps Amenities

Rare Aspen Alps condominium with handicap access! Recently remodeled gorgeous 2 bedroom, 3 bath Aspen Alps Condo that overlooks the park with first floor handicap access, parking and bathrooms and is just steps away from Spa & Pool. Ski-in on a snowy day - all this plus the world class amenities of the Aspen Alps! **Offered for $2,300,000. www.AspenAlps206.info**



Carol Dopkin & Tommy

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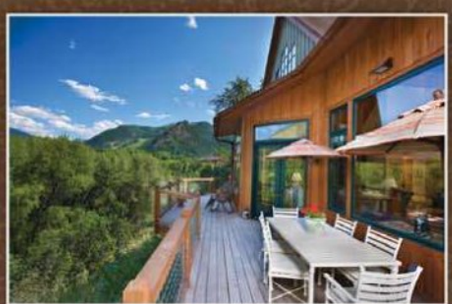
Castle Creek



This unique home is beautifully situated on over an acre extending down a bluff to Castle Creek and providing a panorama from Red Mountain, across Smuggler Mountain and the faces of Ajax and Shadow Mountain. The open living area features a kitchen with fireplace, dining area and living room with fireplace, and an adjacent den/library with bath. The master suite has wonderful views to the east. A two-bedroom guest suite with living area opens onto a south-facing porch. The well-designed landscaping on the west side of the house includes two ponds fed by a seasonal stream. This property truly is a little piece of heaven and must be seen to experience the feeling it evokes. Owner is licensed real estate broker. $6,900,000.00

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Joshua Landis | Aspen Real Estate Company
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922 CASTLE CREEK ROAD | ASPEN

This extraordinary new home on Castle Creek is located less than 1 mile from the world class skiing and nightlife of Aspen, but worlds away in this serene, riverfront setting and includes 5750sf on 14.72acres. Mountain contemporary design and all the finest finishes. Combine with the adjacent property to create a 35 acre compound less than 5 minutes from downtown Aspen.

Doug Leibinger | Chaffin Light Real Estate
O: (970) 923.2006 / C: (970) 379.9045
email: doug@aspenareaproperty.com

927 CASTLE CREEK ROAD | ASPEN

Less than a mile from all the excitement and sophistication that Aspen has to offer is a private, unpretentious home nestled against the banks of Castle Creek. Situated on 19 serene acres bordered by National Forest, this property is a true oasis. Mature landscaping and comfortable outdoor living spaces allow you to relax upon arrival. Take an afternoon nap in the hammock or read a book on the bench by the river, you won't want to leave.

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Luxury Home at Residences of Little Nell

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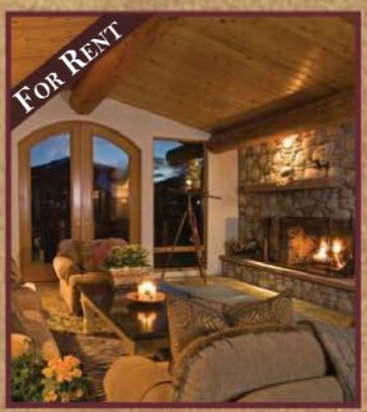
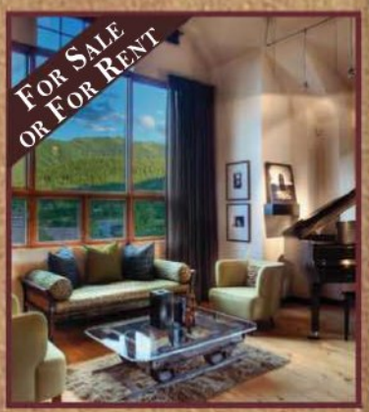
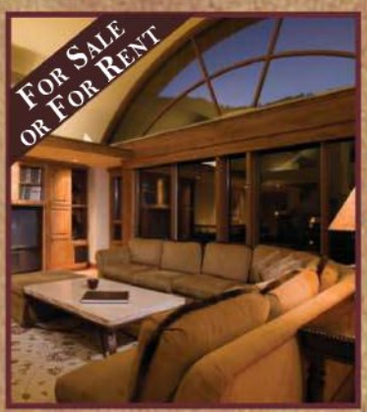
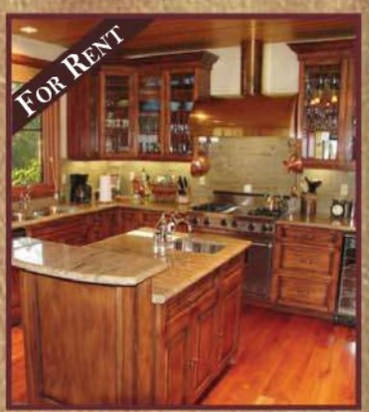
Sublime Perfection

The quintessential Victorian beauty of this five bedroom, six and one half bath home has been preserved on the outside, while the inside has been magnificently transformed! Expansive, chic, warm contemporary interiors, Aspen Mtn views, spacious outdoor patio/garden areas. Private guest house, lovely yard, two car garage! **$6,995,000**









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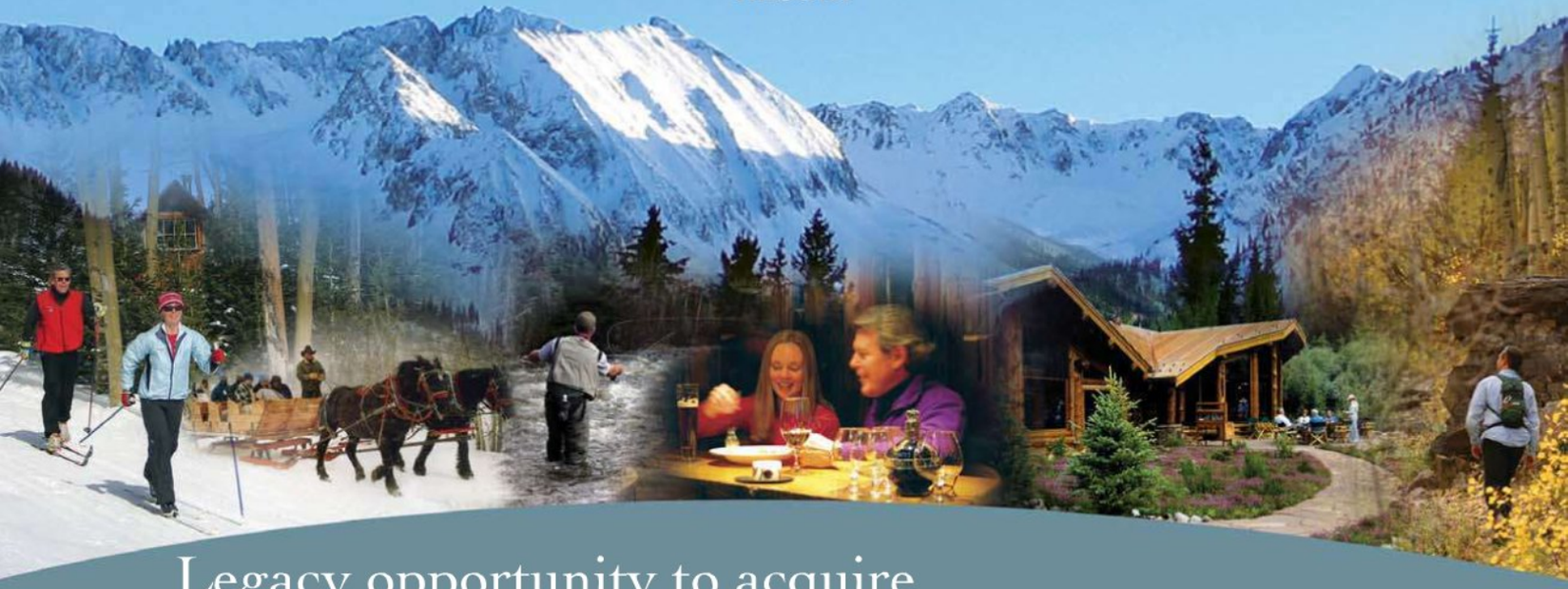
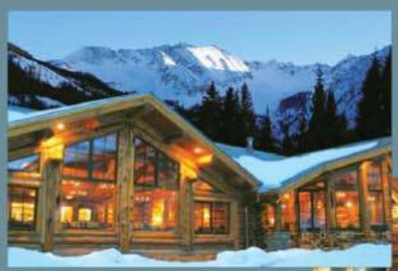


Legacy opportunity to acquire Aspen's premier high-altitude resort

Owners are retiring after 24 years.



Pine Creek Cookhouse

Star Peak Cabin

Aspen's legendary year-round Ashcroft Resort is located at the base of the Elk Mountains, and just a short drive from downtown Aspen at the end of Castle Creek Road. Situated on private land and National Forest, under permit from the United States Forest Service (USFS), the culinary center of the resort is the famous Pine Creek Cookhouse, a 7,500 sq.ft. native Colorado log mountain restaurant. Recognized by Entrepreneur Magazine as "one of America's top four restaurants", the resort has also been named by the USA Today as "One of the most romantic restaurants in America".

The USFS Resort Permit allows the use of the 735 National Forest acres for year-round outdoor activities including; cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sleigh rides, hiking, mountain biking, fishing & cabin rentals. The resort has thirty-five kilometers of cross-country ski trails, summer hiking and biking trails. The Resort property has numerous ponds and four miles of Castle Creek for fishing.

Star Peak Cabin - a private 15 acre in holding with a 5,500 sq.ft. luxury log lodge, is used for overnight adventures and special events. - Montezuma Mill Site - a private 5 acre in holding with two 620 sq.ft. cabins, is approved for an additional 3,500 sq. ft. cabin.

The Ashcroft Ghost Town is on the National Historic Registry drawing 100's of visitors each day. Approval has been given for a new arrival center and retail shop for the resort next to the Ghost Town.

Plans are under way for additional sustainable resort cabins powered with wind, water and the sun, creating a high-altitude lodging experience unique in the world.

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Contemporary Le Chamonix Townhome

Newly renovated, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2000 square feet, fine finishes, warm living spaces, flexible space for an additional bedroom, family room, or exercise room, expansive master suite, top of the line appliances, lots of storage space, private deck, patio, and ample parking. Located directly across from Aspen Highlands and overlooking Maroon Creek.

$1,495,000

Classy Downtown Aspen Condo

A fabulous contemporary remodel has utilized every square foot of space in this second floor, one level unit that features 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, approximately 1900 square feet, beautiful furnishings, and two balconies. Overlooking Glory Hole Park and just 2 blocks to the gondola with direct views of Aspen Mountain, an elevator, underground parking garage, and assigned off-street parking.

$3,950,000 Furnished

West Aspen Duplex

This traditional mountain-style duplex is located on a private cul-de-sac in a great family neighborhood with nice views, southern exposure, tranquil yard with patio spaces, and beautiful exterior entertaining areas. Each side features 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, 4184-4218 square feet, den, wine room, loft office, separate lower level family room, and a 2 car garage.

$3,950,000 Each

Red Mountain Living

An amazing deal in one of Aspen's most exclusive areas! Stunning views perfectly framed from this well maintained and remodeled home with end of the road privacy. 3 bedrooms plus office/bunk-room, 3.5 baths, 4053 square feet, gas fireplaces, granite counters & stainless steel appliances in the kitchen, new marble bathrooms, warm log accents, 5 private patios, 2 hot tubs, fenced yards, and an extra large 2 car garage.

$4,500,000

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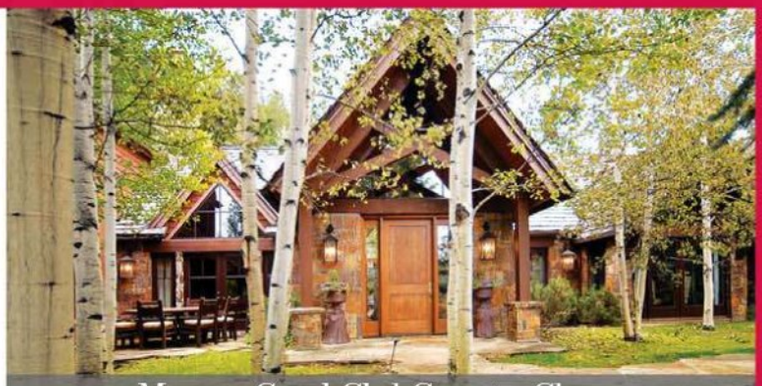

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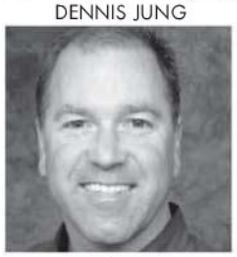
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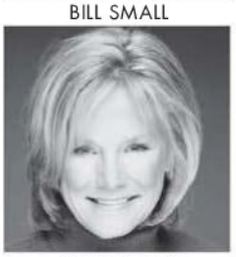
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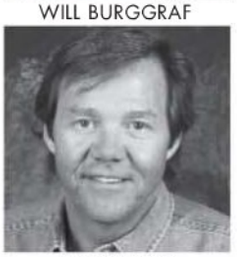
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1 Family Home in the Heart of Historic West End

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2 Northstar Preserve: "One of Colorado's Last Great Places", The Nature Conservancy

Overlooking the center of 240-acre preserve with Roaring Fork River "Stillwater" running through it, this is a 3.4-acre parcel with re-development opportunities and income producing 1980's Main Home and Cabin. The site is approved for 10,750 sq ft home. Called Aspen's "Gold Coast", this quiet low traffic, east Aspen area features new $15M-$24M homes, only 1.9 miles from center of Aspen. Exclusive offering, not in MLS. Price: $4,600,000.

3 Charming "Old West" Compound

Main House and two 1890's Cabins. 5.5 bdrm, 5.5 ba, 5,748 sf total, 12.6 acres, pool, gazebo, gardens, huge views, big water rights, end of the road living. One-of-a-kind property in Woody Creek. New to market: $4,850,000.

The Estin Report

Aspen Snowmass real estate intelligence updated regularly.

12 SALES TRANSACTIONS IN PAST YEAR

- 1500 Tiehack Rd: Sold, $11.25M (Buyer's Agent)
- 730 E Hopkins: Sold, $4.175M (Listing Broker)
- 334 Twining Flats Rd: Sold, $1.35M (Transaction Broker for Buyer/Seller)
- Little Nell Condo #6: Sold, $1.225M (Listing Broker)
- Fasching Haus Condo #110: Sold, $600K (Buyer's Agent)
- Viceroy Condos: Under Contract, 6 condos, $7.5M (Buyer's Agent)

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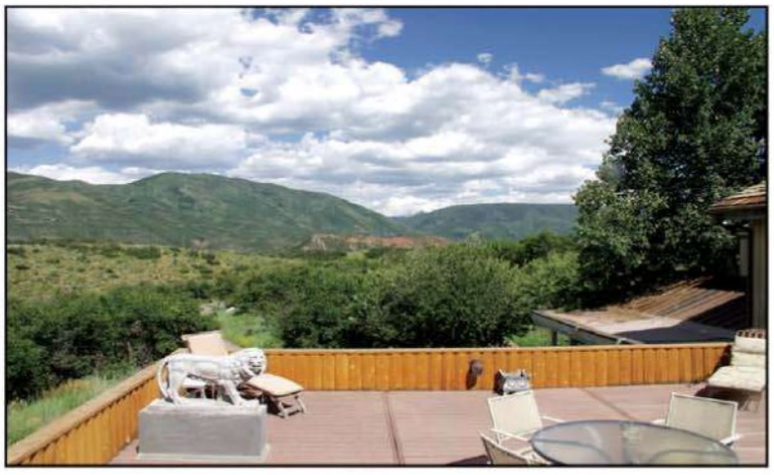

Aspen / West Buttermilk - Estate Lot

Enjoy breathtaking views of Red Mountain, Owl Creek, and Starwood from this private 5+ acre estate lot. Enjoy the home as is or renovate, expand or build anew. Rare development opportunity on Buttermilk, the site of several of the most expensive Aspen homes. This is a terrific value for the unique location of a private 5+ acre view lot, yet close to downtown. Offered at $3,750,000

Little Elk Creek - Old Snowmass

Spacious home and large barn situated on two 1-acre lots. Borders large ranch parcel. Little Elk Creek runs through yard. Gorgeous views to Elk Mtn Range. 2 horses allowed per lot. $2,195,000

Hyatt Grand Aspen

Ideal downtown location. Luxurious condos beautifully appointed. Winter & summer fixed-time fractional interests ranging from $139,000 to $899,000

Aspen Top Floor Condo

Central core location ... walk to restaurants, shops and gondola. Top-floor, south-facing, turn-key studio w/ loft. Aspen Mtn views. $747,000

Emma/Basalt Paradise

Private end-of-the-road 5-acre paradise. Borders Sopris Creek & the Roaring Fork River. Great for fishing, horses and other recreational activities. $2,495,000

Capitol Creek - Snowmass

Enjoy the sounds of rushing waters and the beauty of the surrounding mountain setting. This 4 bedroom home features vaulted ceilings, an open floor plan & large windows. $1,075,000

45 Acres - Old Snowmass

Enjoy panoramic mountain views to from Mount Sopris to Snowmass. Flat building site with easy access. 35 minutes from Aspen. $1,050,000

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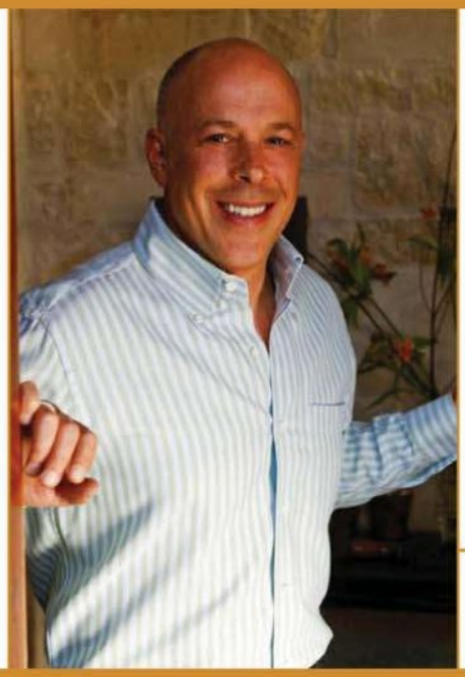

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The Pines Lot 31, Snowmass Village

Spectacular views, private setting, easy ski access to Two Creeks from this sunny family retreat. Home theater, air conditioning, gourmet kitchen with walk-in pantry, state of the art sound system and a master suite with office, workout area, large closet, patio and spa like bath, all with mountain views.

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Maroon Creek Club Lot 21, Aspen

Overlooking the 12th fairway of the signature hole, sounds from the creek, views of Aspen and beyond. Exquisite finishes, impeccable taste reign throughout, vintage distressed oak floors, stunning antler chandeliers, French limestone fireplaces, tin-stamped kitchen ceiling, the list goes on and it's simply perfect!

5 Bedrooms, 5 Full and 1 Half Bath | $7,700,000 Furnished

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ASPEN MAGAZINE

Weddings

Summer 2010

EXPERTS 6
Tricks of the trade from the most talented planners in the land.

VENUES 12
Luxe sites across town make it difficult to choose just one spot to celebrate.

BEAUTY 16
How to craft a perfectly natural, perfectly stunning wedding look.

FLORALS 18
The best summer bouquets borrow from both the garden and the woods.

THE SPIRITUAL SUNDECK 20
Laurie Sasser and David Darbyshire get hitched atop glorious Aspen Mountain.

COLOR OF LOVE 24
Kristin Lasher and Max Breed celebrate their union in vibrant, passionate, cinematic color.

"I DO" 30
Magical moments from three Aspen weddings.

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Planners Make Perfect

The first step to your dream wedding is a knowledgeable party planner. Read on for tips from the best in Aspen, and see why nothing beats the romance, adventure, and pure fun of getting married in a mountain town.

Jane Floyd

Jane Floyd & Associates
P.O. Box 5843
Snowmass Village, CO 81615
970.923.2333

WITH THIRTY YEARS of event experience under her belt, Jane Floyd could put together a party with her eyes closed, and the results would be spectacular. This is a woman who loves her job, and it shows in the perfectly plotted details that go into each of her weddings. Her number one motto? Have fun!

ON BUDGETING: Jane thinks about "aha, smart!" strategies that ensure you get the best value for your money. For example, hosting your wedding over the Fourth of July means that you and your guests can take advantage of fireworks and other planned events without scheduling (and paying) for every impressive detail. Even better, local festivities really help make you a part of the town.

ON HOT WEDDING THEMES: The street food movement is going to be big. Think beloved childhood ice cream trucks and the traveling taco vendors that took NYC by storm last summer. Jane envisions tequila carts, ice cream machines, and lots of yummy wrapped treats for an atmosphere of vibrant, relaxed merriment.

ON TRAVELING TO HIGH ALTITUDE: One word: oxygen. Jane incorporates oxygen bars into the theme and decor of the wedding reception to help acclimate guests who are coming from sea level. Doing this elegantly is easier than it sounds: Simply scatter oxygen canisters among the lounge furniture for a cool, house-party vibe.

ON HER MOST MEMORABLE ASPEN EVENT: Weddings that are a progression of well-planned smaller events are the most memorable, says Jane. One recent standout began with a garden-party ceremony at the Aspen Historical Society, then moved to a private home for specialty cocktails, set up camp outside for an elaborate tented white-glove dinner, and ended dancing on a tennis court turned into a glittering discotheque.

The street food movement is going to be big. Think beloved childhood ice cream trucks and the traveling taco vendors that took NYC by storm last summer.

JoAnn Moore

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Vail, CO 81658
970.926.2177

ONE OF ONLY TWO accredited members of the Association of Certified Professional Wedding Consultants in Colorado, JoAnn Moore does her homework to assure every wedding she plans uses the absolute best vendors and resources. Eighty percent of her clients plan destination events, and she is the ultimate pro at creating elegant, intimate weddings with a heavy dose of Colorado charm.

"The top-notch professional service of (the Hotel Jerome) provides couples with absolutely everything they expect in a perfect wedding."

ON HER FAVORITE ASPEN VENUE: Hotel Jerome. "The top-notch professional service of this Aspen landmark provides couples with absolutely everything they expect in a perfect wedding," says JoAnn. Every last detail runs smoothly.

ON DEALING WITH UNPREDICTABLE WEATHER: Know your venue. If you're planning to get married outside, always make sure that you're comfortable with an indoor Plan B. If you're getting married on a mountaintop and a rainstorm does strike, the good news is that your guests will likely already be in adventure mode from their trip up the gondola. A little rain may only make the memory brighter.

ON THE MOST UNIQUE ELEMENT SHE'S INCORPORATED INTO A CEREMONY: Horses. The father of a bride asked JoAnn to bring in two horses—one white, one black—as a surprise for his veterinarian daughter during the ceremony. Besides expressing the bride's personality, the animals fit right into Aspen's earthy elegance.

ON HER TOP TIP FOR BRIDES: Look for deals. "The downturn has turned the wedding market in the bride and groom's favor," JoAnn says. Although the secret is out about amazing Colorado summers, May-October is still the peak time to talk vendors down on pricing.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF WEDDING PLANNERS

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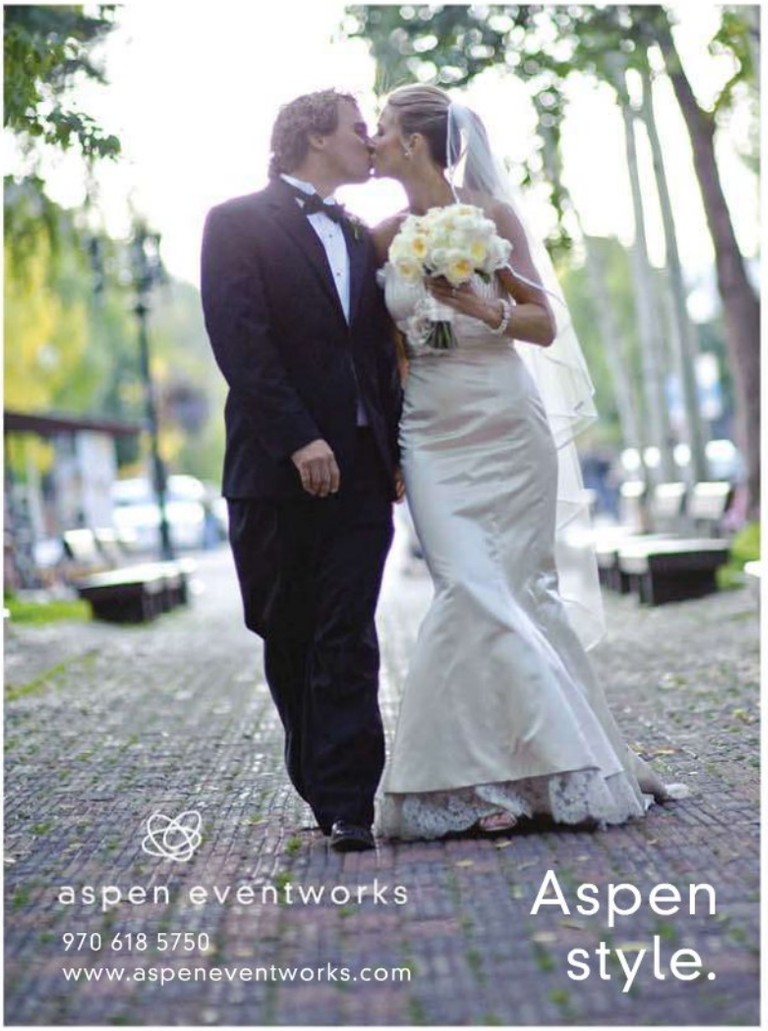

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Debra Doyle

Aspen Eventworks
309 Pitkin Iron Road
Aspen, CO 81611
970.618.5750

THE NAME DEBRA DOYLE is practically synonymous with Aspen entertaining. At the helm of Aspen Eventworks since 2004, Debra has dreamed up some of the most gorgeous weddings in recent memory. "What I love most is seeing the joy, laughter, and fun on the big day when the process turns into the dream," she says.

ON WHAT MAKES A UNIQUELY "ASPEN" WEDDING: "The eco-friendly element is something that many Aspen brides look to maximize," says Debra, who often uses natural, reusable materials throughout the ceremony and reception. Debra has created escort cards from river rocks painted by local artisans, fashioned menus and table numbers from vintage chalkboards, and created a couple's initials in moss letters to hang from a reception barn.

ON HER TOP TIP FOR BRIDES: Choose a color palette and design theme before you send any information to your guests. Your wedding will have a thoughtful, cohesive feel, and it will be easier to make other decisions.

ON BUDGETING: There are many little things you can do to bring your budget down. Opt for a nontraditional desserts, with cupcakes or pies instead of a wedding cake. Use simple, stunning centerpieces using local flowers and greenery. Serve tap water in pitchers with fresh fruit. And most importantly, keep your guest list down to a number that will work with your budget—and ensure your celebration stays intimate and special.

Melina Glavas

The Little Nell
675 East Durant Avenue
Aspen, CO 81611
970.920.6322

A LITTLE NELL wedding is memorable in a way few other venues can claim. This legendary property combines the glamour of Aspen with the restorative power of nature. Adding to the experience is Melina Glavas, the director of catering, who gives every wedding an elite yet cozy elegance.

ON PLANNING A FOOLPROOF REHEARSAL DINNER: Go family-style. It's fun, relaxed, and can be a valuable de-stressing time before the more formal wedding. "It gets both families together sharing and passing food, having fun, and telling stories," says Melina. "It can also be a terrific way to pay tribute to the family, by choosing a menu that represents their heritage or regional cuisine. We've had many families with Italian heritage who have loved our homemade pastas, cured meats, cheeses, and freshly snipped farm greens with deliciously paired wines."

ON ATMOSPHERE: Less formality, more fun. Think small plates, live-chef action stations, and assorted mini-desserts. And lots of dancing. Melina says, "We are seeing couples looking to have more fun, and this means dancing throughout the entire party, from start to finish."

ON ADVICE FOR OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS: "Never take the last flight into Aspen unless you want to stay in Denver for the night," says Melina. "Aspen is not the easiest place to get to, but it's worth it!"

ON CHOOSING ASPEN AS YOUR DESTINATION: Along with natural beauty, the entertainment factor is one of the biggest reasons to choose Aspen. With hiking, biking, skiing, shopping, and people-watching, guests are entertained simply by stepping outside. It is also convenient, once you arrive. "Most hotels provide transportation to and from the airport, and the entire town is completely manageable by foot," says Melina. Her final bridal tip? "When you invite 250 people to your wedding thinking 20 percent won't show . . . they will. It's Aspen, and if they have not been here and fallen in love with the town already, they've been waiting for any excuse to visit!"

Elizabeth Slossberg

EKS Events
152 Basalt Center Circle
Basalt, CO 81623
970.927.8808

HAVING WORKED WITH a host of celebrities and Fortune 500 execs in Aspen and across the globe, Elizabeth Slossberg has refined her gift for getting inside the mind, heart, and vision of her clients. Every wedding she plans is infused with the spirit of the bride and groom and brightened by her own unrivaled chic.

ON ASPEN AS A WEDDING DESTINATION: The majestic beauty of Aspen is like no other place in the world. Aspen elevates nature while offering the sophistication of a premier luxury travel destination. The combination is magical. "Clients always ask the same question during our first meeting: Napa or Aspen?" says Elizabeth. "By the second meeting, they know Aspen is the only place for them."

ON BUDGETING: Choose one "wow" piece instead of a lot of little pieces. Lighting, centerpieces, linens, and other decor can become unforgettable focal points for your celebration. They can also bring out your theme. For example, Elizabeth decked a reception hall with chandeliers made from tree branches and created a floral gazebo with an ice sculpture bath that was later turned into a dessert station.

ON THE HOT COLORS FOR SUMMER 2010: Drama, drama, drama. This year, traditional summer palettes are being replaced by deep, fiery colors that evoke an enchanted forest: red, burgundy, fuchsia, gunmetal gray, and deep purple.

ON HER FAVORITE (UNIQUE) ASPEN VENUE: A private home with beautiful grounds. This hasn't always been an option, Elizabeth says, but with the economic downturn, stately homes are allowing short-term rentals. This gives couples the chance to create a truly original event—part exotic destination, part intimate, homey affair.

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ON OFF-SEASON ASPEN: "Summer and fall are my favorite times," says Elizabeth. "Summer means crisp, clean air, and fall brings golden leaves and mountains illuminated by colored light. Both seasons are absolutely stunning and can be an amazing time for guests and family members to experience the beauty of Aspen."

Marcy Kneiper

Creative Weddings
P.O. Box 9187
Aspen, CO 81612
970.704.1300

NO TWO WEDDINGS planned by Marcy Kneiper are alike. From the moment she meets a new bride and groom, she begins brainstorming ways to personalize their experience. Her events are equivalent to a luxurious custom suit: beautifully tailored and bespoke.

ON WEDDING TRENDS FOR SUMMER 2010: Make a unique statement. Putting thought into the little details can really make your wedding stand out in a sea of summer events. "Every bride is doing something that sets her apart, whether designing her own lino cut for the invitations or creating a menu around favorite foods," Marcy says.

ON PLANNING A TRIP TO ASPEN: Turn the wedding weekend into a true vacation. "Plan to stay at least five days, so you can enjoy a little bit of the town on your own terms. Get outside and go hiking, fishing, adventuring—you'll know why we live here!"

ON DE-STRESSING BEFORE THE WEDDING: Take a deep breath, step back, and allow the situation to come into focus. "If you are feeling overwhelmed, step back and return to the project later—sometimes a week later," says Marcy. "Or have someone help you with it." She also advises creating a health regimen before the wedding, which can help you slow down and de-stress.

ON HER TOP TIP FOR BRIDES: Go out of your way to make your guests feel special. Personalize something special for each person. Something small—a note on arrival or a favor at the reception—can make a big statement and can go a long way toward making your day as special for your friends and family as it is for you.

Jason Burns

DL Event Planning
P.O. Box 9223
Aspen, CO 81611
970.925.4223

SINCE CHILDHOOD, Jason Burns has been obsessed with parties—their detail, symbolism, and spirit. This, along with his keen eye, has made him one of Aspen's most sought-after event personalities: He was recently commissioned by the Viceroy Hotel in Snowmass to help launch their top-of-the-line wedding program.

ON THE HOT COLORS FOR SUMMER 2010: "Most of my brides this coming season are choosing bold colors," says Jason. "They are embracing a radiant color palette of fuchsia, orange, hot pink, lime green. and the most dazzling purples—colors you would expect to find at a traditional Indian or Hindu wedding. Personally, I love it!"

ON HIS TOP TIP FOR BRIDES: Spend time researching and talking about things that are special to you, like finding the same passage, prayer, or poem your parents used at their wedding. "These little touches create the moments that your guests will remember long after the wedding ends," says Jason.

ON THE NEW WEDDING FAVOR: Consider making a charitable donation in your guests' names instead of traditional wedding favors. You can make this extra-personal by choosing a charity that has special meaning to you as a couple or to your families, along with a card that explains its significance in your lives.

ON BUDGETING: Personalization is key. Choosing simple details that reflect your personality as a couple can help a budget stretch much further without sacrificing style. Jason kept a recent wedding on budget by creating a cohesive, vintage-inspired theme throughout: escort cards made from vintage seed packets; seasonal wildflowers; and a guest book made from a pair of vintage skis, signed by guests with gold and silver pens. Simple, tasteful, and truly fabulous!

Nancy Snell

Nancy Snell Events
P.O. Box YY
Aspen, CO 81612
970.925.9207

WORKING WITH NANCY SNELL means working with up-to-the-minute wedding trends. She attends every major event conference in the country, so her clients benefit from an incredible depth of knowledge—not to mention her own colorful warmth.

ON WHAT BRIDES WILL REMEMBER ABOUT THEIR DAY: The ceremony is the heart of any wedding. At the end of the planning process, it is what you—and your guests—will treasure most. "The beauty and emotion of this commitment is very personal and romantic," says Nancy.

ON THE DECOR: Lighting is key to creating the perfect atmosphere for your wedding. Innovative lighting has a big visual impact and is a beautiful and affordable way to create a desired mood.

ON WHAT SETS HER APART FROM OTHER PLANNERS: Nancy's reputation has earned her substantial praise in the event-planning community. In 2010 she has been awarded two Icon Awards, for Best Social Event of the Year and Best Entertainment of the Year.

ON THE MOST UNIQUE ELEMENT SHE'S INCORPORATED INTO AN EVENT: Not one to skimp on drama, Nancy turned the bar area into an ice skating rink, complete with Russian ice skaters, to add that something extra to a winter-themed celebration.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF WEDDING PLANNERS.

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Prime Places

Aspen brides are spoiled for choice when it comes to choosing a venue. Whether you want historic charm or Bauhaus chic, this is a town that was designed to party. Read on for details about the hottest venues in Aspen, then get set to let the good times roll.

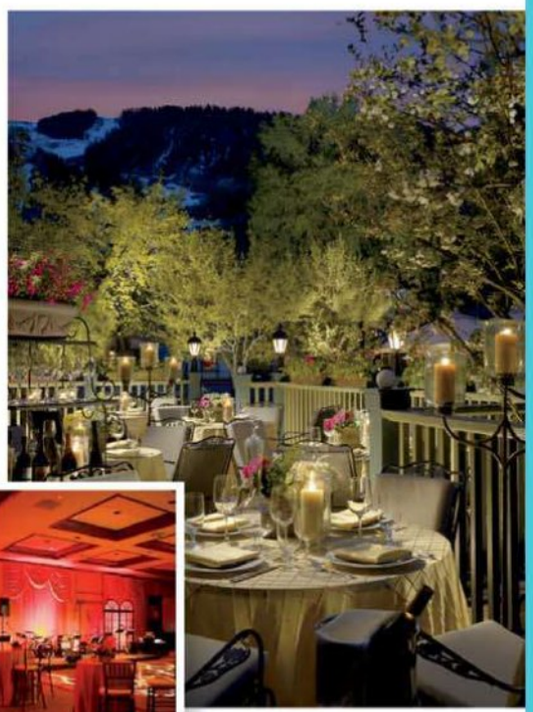
Hotel Jerome

Your authentic Aspen wedding starts here. Hotel Jerome has been a beloved part of the Aspen community for more than 120 years, and it delivers discreet luxury in a breathtaking romantic setting. From the historic brick façade to the casual, sophisticated library to the candlelit charm of the Garden Terrace, Hotel Jerome captures every bit of the heart of Aspen.

If you want an indoor reception: Hotel Jerome has the only aboveground ballroom in downtown Aspen, complete with large windows, elegant furnishings, and a gorgeous adjacent terrace for luxe indoor/outdoor entertaining.

If you'd rather be outdoors: Jerome's Garden Terrace is one of the hottest tickets in town during the warm summer months. The most popular outdoor dining destination in Aspen, the Terrace has unsurpassed views of Aspen Mountain and features classical French cuisine made with fresh farm-to-table ingredients.

Insider tip: Pastry chef Mary Taxiera makes a chocolate cake that is one of the best-kept secrets in Aspen. Treat your guests!

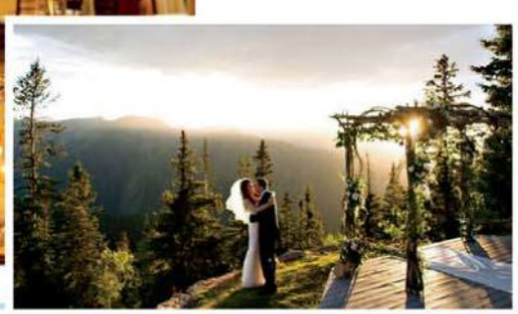


The Little Nell

Few mountain resorts can compare with the sheer luxury and beauty of The Little Nell. Nestled at the base of Aspen Mountain, the hotel brings the renowned cuisine of chef Ryan Hardy and an award-winning wine cellar to the entertaining table. It also boasts five-star service and one of the most exquisite spots for a ceremony in all of Colorado: the Sundeck atop Aspen Mountain, located 11,212 feet in the air and featuring a terraced lawn with stunning views of the surrounding Rocky Mountains.

If you want to impress: Weddings at the Sundeck are truly once-in-a-lifetime events that keep guests talking for years afterward. Just ask the hotel's director of catering, Melina Glavas, who constantly hears returning guests rave about how no wedding can outshine one set on top of Aspen Mountain.

Insider tip: Little Nell weddings have the most romantic getaways. Celebrate your first few moments alone as husband and wife by gliding down the mountain in a private gondola with the glittering lights of Aspen in front of you.



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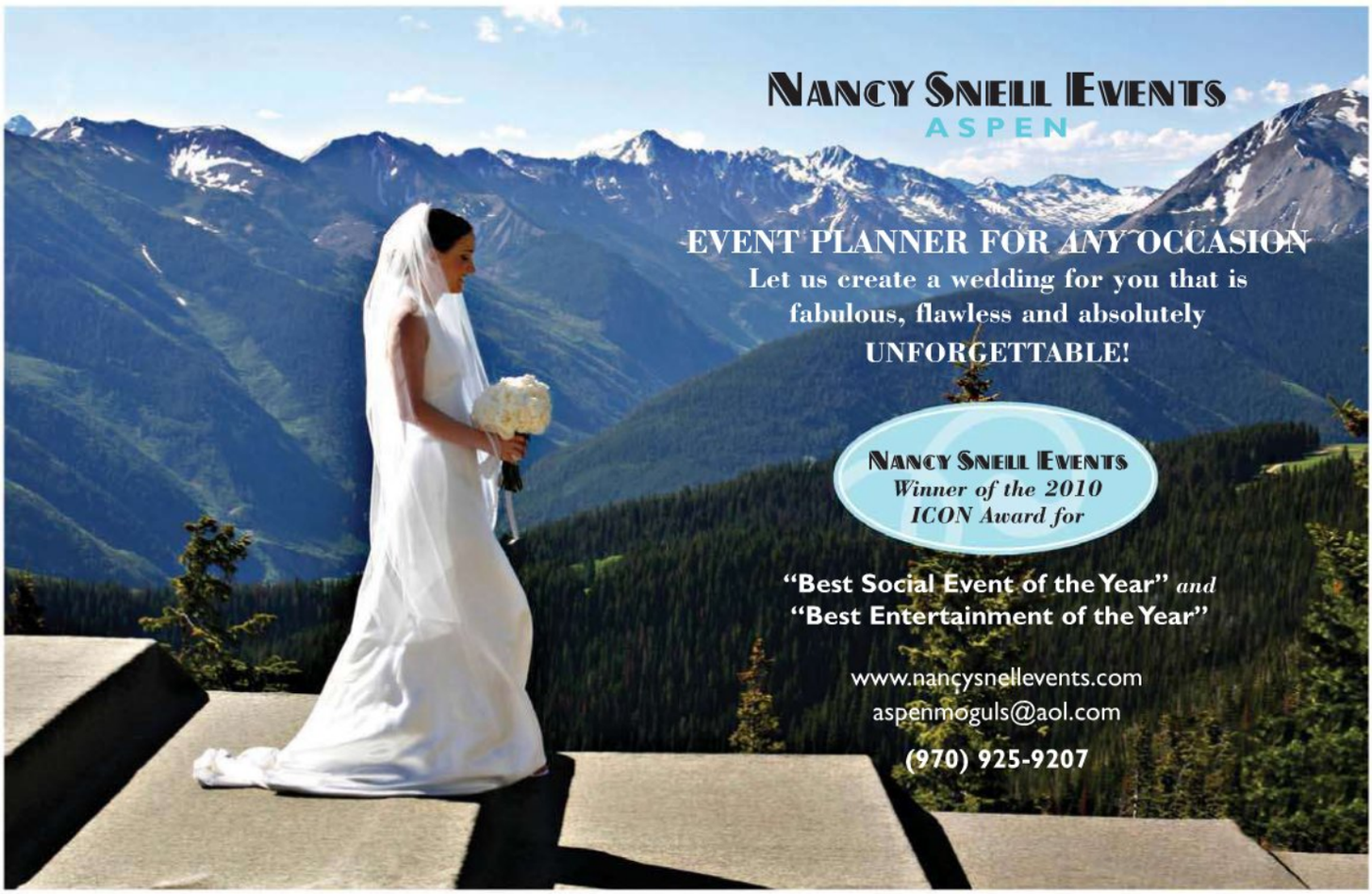

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Viceroy Snowmass

For the sophisticated bride, this stunning resort serves up its own brand of incomparable chic. The newest property to be built in Aspen in thirty years, The Viceroy Snowmass combines the best of warm mountain ambience with sleek city style. Come here to pamper yourselves and your guests, and to celebrate your union in a setting that is at once cutting-edge and timeless.

If you're a design person: With interiors dreamed up by the legendary Kelly Wearstler, this property presents a fresh, modern backdrop for your special day, surrounded by all the glory of the Rockies. Brides that are torn between a city and a mountain wedding no longer have to choose: The Viceroy offers the best of both.

Insider tip: For the ultimate in pre-wedding relaxation, ask to have a spa treatment in a poolside cabana. You'll feel utterly pampered and get a chance to drink in the setting's natural beauty.

The St. Regis

The St. Regis name is synonymous with elegance, luxury, and impeccable service. In Aspen, these qualities are enhanced by a rich heritage of slopeside glamour. Truly one of the places to see and be seen in Aspen, the hotel attracts some of the world's most renowned guests and celebrities—and brides.

If your guests are new to Aspen: The St. Regis offers the ultimate welcome for visitors who are traveling to Aspen from far away. Not only is the hotel ideally situated for exploring the town; it also provides complimentary airport transfer by Mercedes-Benz and even boasts an oxygen lounge to help guests acclimate to life at 8,000 feet above sea level.

Insider tip: For small parties, ask to divide the ballroom into two salons to maximize intimacy.

Aspen Meadows

Recently named one of the country's top wedding venues for 2010 by *The Knot*, Aspen Meadows is situated on 40 acres of rolling high country in Aspen's historic West End. Located just outside of town, the resort's Bauhaus design stands in crisp contrast to its lush green landscape and sweeping mountain views.

If you want an affordable outdoor venue: Because Aspen Meadows is not actually in the center of town, pricing is slightly lower for the same magnificent setting. Even better, the extra space means you get an inimitable private outdoor experience. The options for your ceremony site alone are endless, ranging from romantic, aspen-filled Anderson Park to cozy Merril Patio, overlooking rushing Castle Creek.

Insider tip: Request room 200 or 220 for the night of your wedding, especially if you are getting married in Anderson Park. The rooms connect perfectly to the park's pathways, allowing you to walk directly from the room into the park for the ceremony. As expected in a setting this dreamlike, both rooms also boast spectacular views.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF VICEROY SNOWMASS/DAVID MATHESON; COURTESY OF THE ST. REGIS; COURTESY OF ASPEN MEADOWS/ALICE KOELLE

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Advice: **Choose a look that fits your personality**

Blushing Bride

Gone are the days of the overly beautified bride. You know, the one who looks nothing like you? This summer, makeup and hair for brides is fresh and personality-driven, meaning you can craft a look that enhances your dress, your theme, and the atmosphere of your big day.

"The key to getting the exact look that you want is planning your beauty regimen the same way you plan every other part of your day," says Michael Tullio, owner of Aspen's Salon Tullio. "Most brides want a look that reflects their lifestyle, so to do something totally bridal isn't for them." He advises each of his bridal clients to choose a look that fits her personality and that is timeless enough to be appreciated in the years of photo-admiring to come.

Jeff Novak, owner of Aspen's Lather salon, agrees. "Brides today are wearing their hair and makeup more naturally, for a look that's earthier and less contrived," he says. "This means looser, naturally flowing hairstyles that coincide with the shorter trains and veils that are becoming more popular." To start thinking about a look, Jeff encourages each of his brides to plan with their venue in mind. "If you are getting married in Stein Meadow than you would not want your gown and hair to be as formal as if you were getting married in the courtyard at the St. Regis." Determining these details are things he and his staff take care of during a bride's trial run.

Both Michael and Jeff agree: the key to achieving the look you want is to edit in advance. First, decide on the general style and effect you want. Second, schedule a consultation. Third, plan at least one trial run, take pictures, and decide what little aspects you want to tweak. By the time the actual day arrives you'll know exactly what you're getting, which means that you can relax and allow the pamper process to double as a de-stressing ritual.

You can also have quite a bit of fun. At Salon Tullio, Michael's brides often bring in food and Champagne to set a festive tone for the rest of the day. "It is important to find a salon where you really feel at home," he says, "because a relaxed bride is a beautiful bride." His salon space is large enough to accommodate stylists, makeup artists, and nail technicians for the entire bridal party at once. By special request, both Michael and Jeff will also schedule bridal beauty services in the privacy of your home or hotel. The point is to find the option that puts you most at ease, so your look will come off flawlessly. Michael's final essential truth: "Bridal beauty is basically universal—all brides really want to look the best they can possibly look." Amen to that.

PHOTO: ISTOCK

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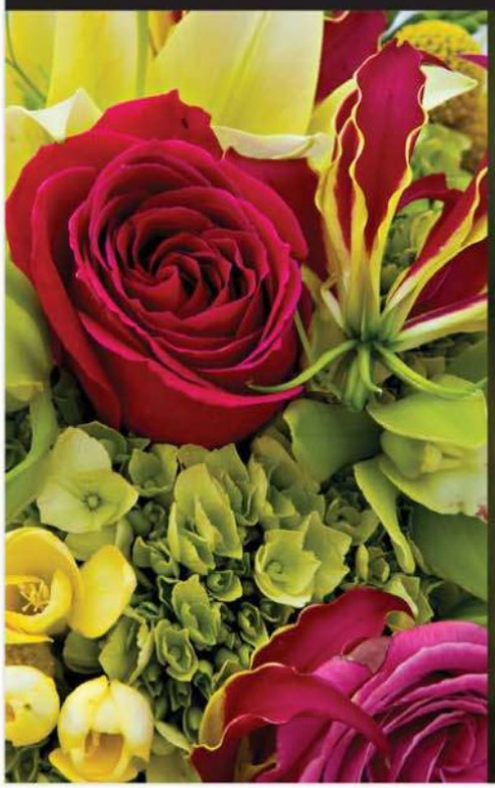

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Floral Notes

In a town famous for its natural beauty, Beth Gill, owner of The Aspen Branch floral boutique, is the ultimate pro at translating every last drop of surrounding gorgeousness to help each bride build a wedding that is chic, timeless and stunningly "Aspen."

Language of Flowers: Nothing sends a message quite the way a flower does

Two standout floral trends are sweeping the bridal world right now: bright, saturated color and natural "walk in the woods" greenery and neutrals. For the record, Beth Gill finds them both perfectly suited to a mountain wedding. Eighty percent of her clients plan destination events in Aspen, which means that part of her job is capturing the unique emotional connection each couple has to the town.

Choosing a color palette is one of the best places to start. For summer brides who want bright blooms, Beth favors dahlias, garden roses, and calla lilies in shades of red, orange, and pink. For the woodsy look, she begins with white scabiosa, dahlias, and delphiniums, then adds organic elements such as brown hypericum berries or fresh fern shoots. Sweet peas in white and lavender thrive in cool mountain air and can add a hint of ruffled femininity to any bouquet.

Beth Gill

Non-floral decor pieces also add depth and visual interest to these color palettes. "Brides today don't want lots of flowers," says Beth. "Instead they are choosing hints of flowers and adding lots of other elements." Think candles, stones, and figs or other fruits. These help capture seasonal appeal and can also save your budget. Paired with small clustered bouquets across a table, they create a romantic, garden-like effect while requiring far fewer stems than one large statement bouquet. Add candlelight and you'll also capture the elegance of the vases' reflective water.

With creative use of props, your ceremony space can take on a personalized charm. Beth has used river rocks to line an outdoor aisle, created chuppahs made from aspen logs, and situated stumps piled high with flowers on either end of an outdoor altar. "The ceremony is the most meaningful part of the day, so it's important to put thought into its decor, just as you put thought into the reception decor," she says. And on a symbolic level, no decorative accent sends the same message as a flower. "Flowers are at their brightest and best for one day, just as the ceremony is for one day," says Beth. "They won't be the same the next day, just as you won't be the same. Flowers really commemorate and celebrate a moment in time."

PHOTOS: JENNIFER CLASEN; LAURA DOMBROWSKI; TONY PRIKRYL

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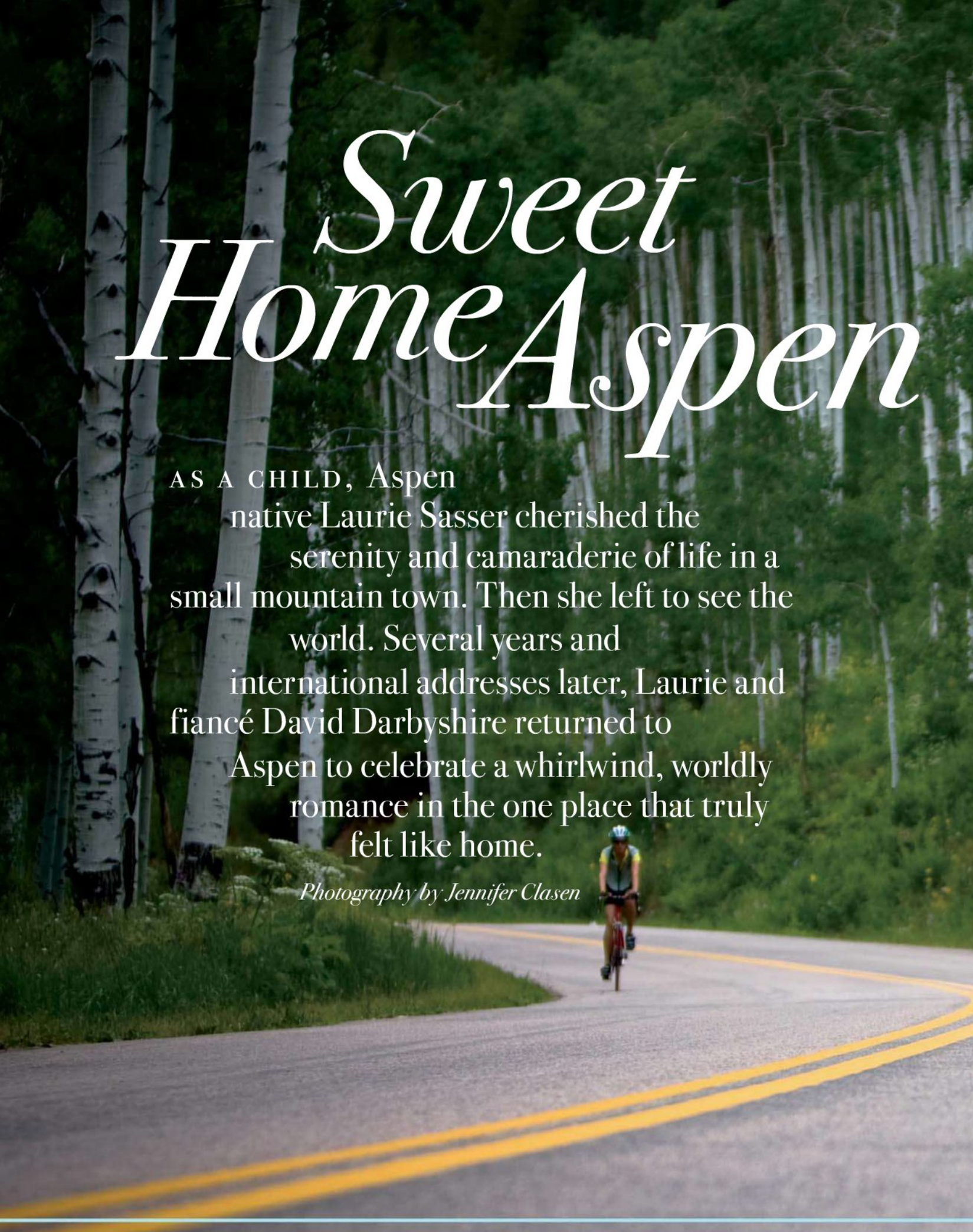

Sweet Home Aspen

AS A CHILD, Aspen native Laurie Sasser cherished the serenity and camaraderie of life in a small mountain town. Then she left to see the world. Several years and international addresses later, Laurie and fiancé David Darbyshire returned to Aspen to celebrate a whirlwind, worldly romance in the one place that truly felt like home.

Photography by Jennifer Clasen

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"One of the monks blessed David and I and said, 'If you can, use your life to help others.' It was a beautiful moment."

Here comes the bride: Walter Sasser walks his daughter down the aisle.

The Darbyshires make a strong case for the maxim that love strikes when you least expect it. In Shanghai for the BMW Asian Open, David was working with famed pro golfer KJ Choi. Laurie was passing through the city for a conference. A break in the action brought them separately to the Jade Buddha Temple, where they met while watching a monk make personalized scrolls inscribed with Buddhist teachings.

Unmistakably, something clicked. A two-year friendship turned into a quick courtship and engagement—and then 18 months of wedding planning while still on the road with David's PGA tour. "Our first decision was to hire someone amazing to plan our wedding," says Laurie. "Melina Glavas [at The Little Nell] understood our angle and that we wanted simple, elegant, and understated."

With Melina's help, the couple planned five full days of outdoorsy revelry culminating in a magnificent celebration at the Sundeck atop Aspen Mountain. After an emotional ceremony encircled by sweeping mountain vistas, Laurie and David received the ultimate unanticipated wedding gift: a blessing from a group of monks who were also on the mountain. "Having met at a Buddhist temple, we felt that this was a very special occurrence," says Laurie. "One of the monks blessed David and I and said, 'If you can, use your life to help others.' It was a beautiful moment."

Just as beautiful were the tables set at the Aspen Mountain Club, where the natural allure of the space was enhanced with bunches of native wildflowers and personal touches in keeping with the mountain scene. Groomsmen and flower girls wore cowboy boots from Kemo Sabe engraved with their initials, and in lieu of a traditional wedding cake, the couple served favorite family pies for a gracious, homey touch.

Another touch of home was the blue spruce that Laurie's father planted at the top of the mountain to commemorate their union—one of the couple's favorite moments of the day. Now settled in Aspen, David and Laurie stop to check on their tree every time they go skiing, relishing this growing symbol of a matchless marriage rooted in a truly matchless town.

PHOTOS: JENNIFER CLASEN

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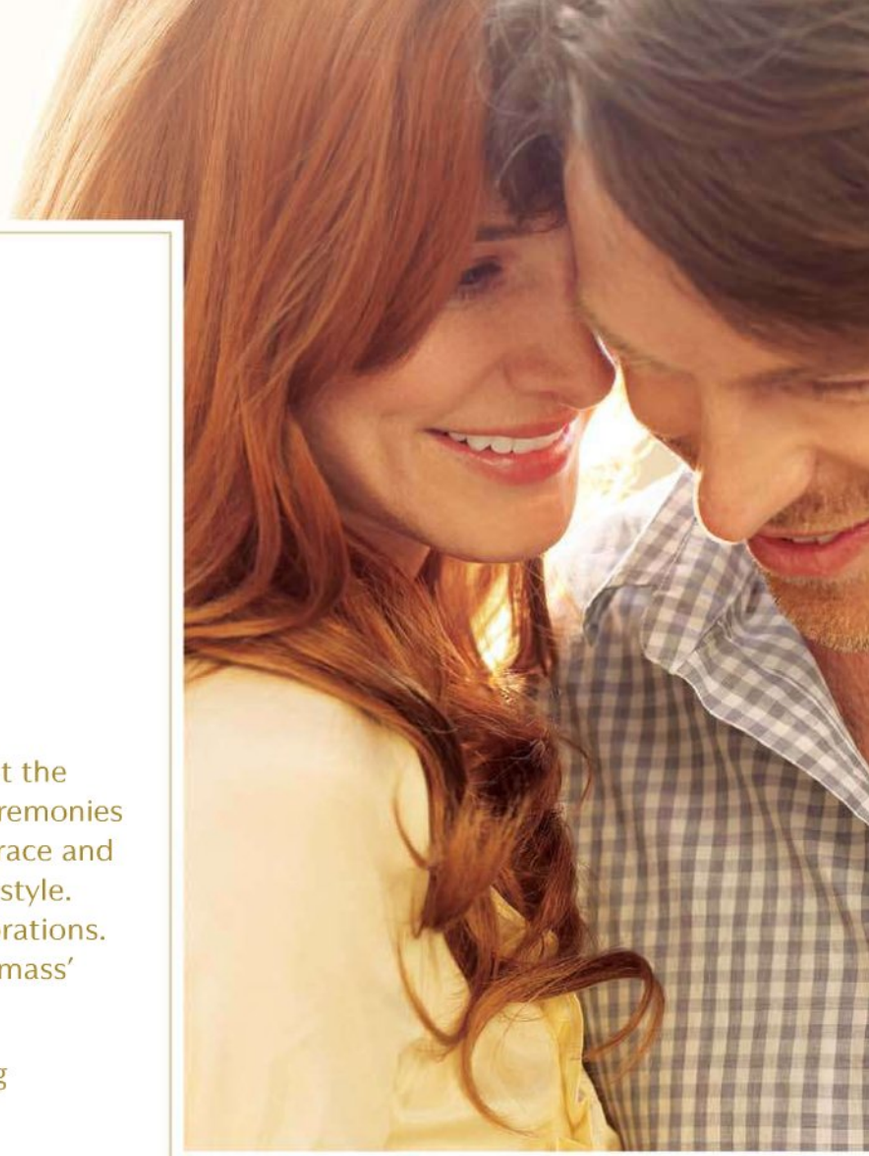

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A CHANCE MEETING at a Manhattan restaurant sparked an instant connection between art therapist Kristin Lasher and attorney Max Breed. Within days they were dating, and six months later they were engaged. For Kristin, the "he's the one" moment came during a six-week European vacation she had planned with a friend prior to meeting Max. After 10 days apart, she received a phone call: Could she meet Max in Istanbul in a week? One ferry ride, a bus trip, and a couple of trains later, she was there. "When Max walked off that plane, having flown halfway around the world to see me for just two days, I knew how lucky I was to be in love with a man who would do that," she says. Three months later he proposed outside NYC's Waverly Inn, and the real adventure began.

Aspen was an easy choice for the couple. Kristin's family owns a home in the area, and from her first visit she had fallen in love with the landscape, the people, and the contagious activity of the

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Personal Touch: Color was at the heart of the planning process

Reflection: Taking a moment before the "I do's"

lifestyle. She and Max wanted to develop an ongoing history with the town, and they wanted to get married outside. The Little Nell's Sundeck space checked both boxes.

Color was at the heart of the planning process. Kristin and Max were inspired by traditional Indian weddings, and planners Elizabeth Slossberg and Ellen Pettyjohn helped them choose hues of red, pink, orange, and yellow to set a warm, exotic tone for the day. Two tents—one for dinner, another for dancing—were draped in pink, gold, and red fabric, dotted with cascading flowers. Tables were bright with orchids and peonies in varying heights, and eclectic chandeliers gave the space a luxe, vintage feel. A dramatic four-tiered cake featured dazzling prints of polka dots, plaid, and stripes, also in the wedding colors.

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"As soon as the music started, almost everyone in the tent stood up, sang, and danced."

Throughout, washed wood elements provided just enough contrast to make each vibrant piece pop.

An exclusively rock and roll music list performed by violinist Bobby Yang and his band turned ceremony and reception into one giant, all-day party. In fact, for Kristin and Max, one of the most memorable parts of the day came during dinner, when Bobby played "Bohemian Rhapsody," by Queen. "As soon as the music started, almost everyone in the tent stood up, sang, and danced," says Kristin. "It was a moment we will cherish forever." Not to mention a fitting tribute to the magical joie de vivre of Aspen.

Vibrant: Flowers and decor by Aspen Branch; Cake by Sinful Sugar

Something New: Wedding dress by Giambattista Valli, couture from his first wedding collection

PHOTO: RICCARDO SAVI

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Brooke Allinson weds Edouard Gerschel

Date: *August 23, 2008*
Ceremony: *Aspen Mountain Sundeck*
Planner: *DL Event Planning*
Wedding Gown: *Vera Wang*
Tux: *Ralph Lauren*
Photographer: *James Christianson*
Florist: *Aspen Branch*
Why Aspen: *He grew up in Aspen, met Brooke here, proposed to her here.*

Lauren Arthur weds Scott Yates

Date: *August 29, 2009*
Ceremony: *Snowmass Club*
Planner: *Jane Floyd & Associates*
Wedding Gown: *Romona Keveza*
Photographer: *Andrew Clark*
Florist: *Harrington Smith*
Why Aspen: *Her parents have had a home in Snowmass since she was six; she spent her summers here and visited in winter. They both wanted a small destination wedding and Snowmass was perfect.*

Nicole Garcia weds Taylor Jordan

Date: *September 13, 2009*
Ceremony: *In a meadow facing Maroon Bells*
Planner: *Marcy Kneiper, Creative Weddings*
Wedding Gown: *Platinum Priscilla of Boston Couture*
Tux: *Ralph Lauren*
Photographer: *Joanna B. Pinneo Photography*
Florist: *Aspen Branch*
Why Aspen: *Through their lifetime visits, Aspen has become a magical and meaningful place.*

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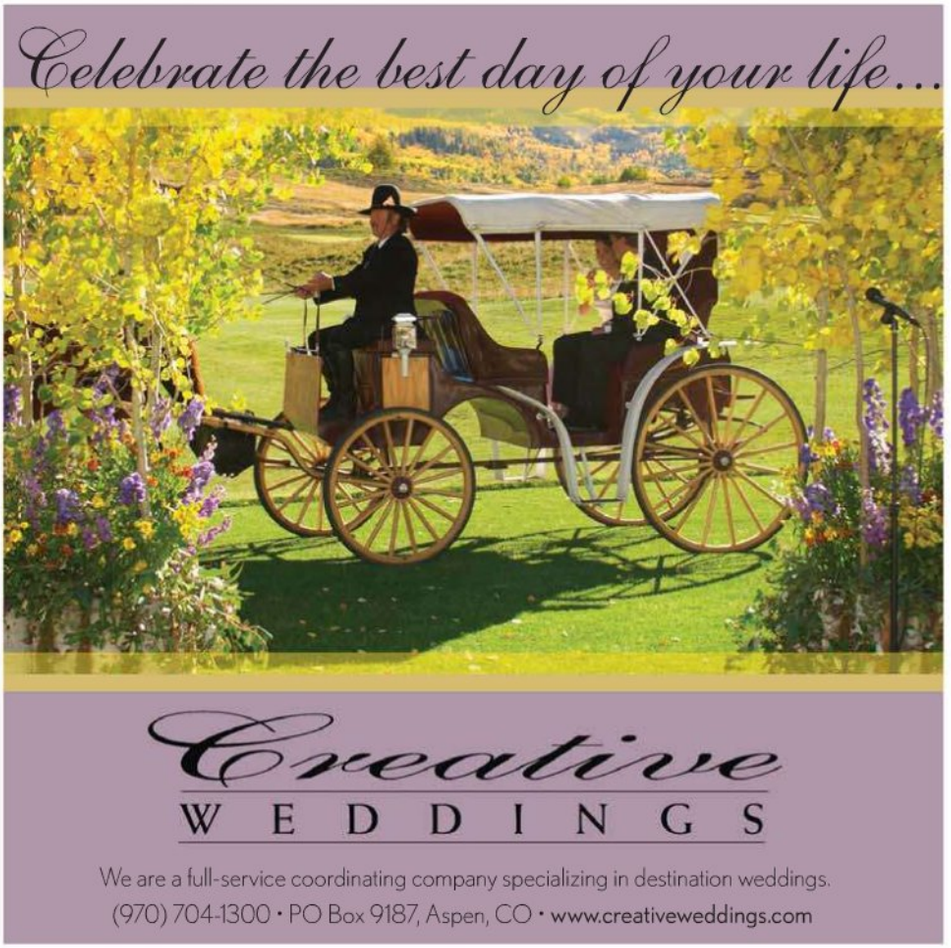

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[VIEWS: the locavore]

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 54

questionable, now that the unemployment rate has topped 10 percent. While it's true that organic purchasing has become more mainstream, the focus is now decidedly different. Michael Pollan's 2006 manifesto, *The Omnivore's Dilemma,* showed the world that the organic label is no longer enough. Consumers want locally grown, seasonally ripened food because it just tastes better.

This kind of local purchasing, not one based on trends, magazine articles, or fashion shoots, is the next step in our own personal economic recovery. Buying regional fare keeps the dollars in the local economy, where studies show they create seven times more wealth than dollars sent elsewhere. Does that make it reasonable to spend $12 a pound on local greens? It does if you stop to consider how much food we waste in our refrigerators now. The bottom line is that good food costs money, but in a peculiar way, food is cheapest when it's at its best. Shopping in season allows you to be open to great deals–asking a farmer for a 20-pound case of peaches will likely cost you a buck a pound versus the $4 a pound otherwise. With a little more care and a bit more time, it's possible to preserve those peaches into jam to match those incredible espresso beans that we love so much.

I see a glimmer of light that the local farm might make it through. Somehow this experience, as it runs parallel to a world financial mess, shows the perseverance of not only Lara, James, and the team at Rendezvous Farm, but in our country as a whole. The economy, like our impossible artichokes, will grow again. And when it does, the localtarian inside us all will have plenty to celebrate.

Hardy, the executive chef at The Little Nell's Montagna restaurant, was nominated for a James Beard Award this year.

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[INSIDER: Top Down]

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

squeak out another 20 hp with a seven-speed transmission. All of the above seem like child's play next to the **M3** convertible, which flaunts a 4.0-liter, 414 hp V8 that propels white-knuckled passengers from 0-60 in 4.9 seconds. The rear-wheel-drive format is the favored stance of BMWs, but that means you'd better shoe these vehicles up with snow tires in wintertime. But during top-down summer driving, the 3 Series convertibles boast best-in-class handling, with perfectly linear steering, tight cornering, and engines so smooth you'll think they're lubricated with clarified butter. Of the three, the 328i feels a bit disappointing on full throttle. (The rest of its performance is so crisp that you expect a bit more oomph when you hit the gas.) The interiors are typical of BMW: clean and so understated that you might want to hang a picture on the dash just to liven the place up a bit. But there are plenty of smart features to make life more convenient, such as an available sun-reflective coating to keep the seats cool.

Performance may be BMW's game, but **Infiniti's G37** convertible

Butter-smooth: BMW's 3 Series

(starting at $44,350) is the player to watch when it comes to delivering power. And it's hard to argue with the hard numbers: The G37 costs $650 less than BMW's entry convertible but delivers five horsepower more than the 335is. The G37 may lack some of its German counterpart's refinement, but it's still quite a stylish and comfortable car. But when it comes to creature comforts, neither BMW nor Infiniti have a leg up on the **Lexus IS C** (starting at $39,440 for a 2.5-liter, 204-hp V6 and $44,890 for a 3.5-liter, 306-hp V6). The IS C has the sumptuous leather, the stellar stereo, and the ultraquiet interior, which are hallmarks of the

Clever, comfortable: Volvo C70

brand. Handling is impressive but lacks the aggressive approach to the road that both BMWs and Infinitis show. But the IS C is a performance champ when it comes to folding up its top: At only 20 seconds, it's one of the fastest folds out there. By the way, like the BMW 3 Series convertibles, both the Infiniti G37 and Lexus IS C convertibles are rear-wheel-drive—so the same wintertime caveats apply.

The bargain choice in four-seat hardtop convertibles is the **Volkswagen Eos** (starting at $32,390). The only available engine in the Eos is a 2-liter turbocharged, 200-hp 4-cylinder engine—the same one found in the brilliantly capable GTI. Unfortunately, the Eos is not the GTI; its handling is nowhere near so crisp. Yet the Eos has nice fit and finish. The retractable roof has a large glass sunroof built right in, so you can let in sunshine even with the top up. Also, like the Volvo, the VW Eos is a front wheel driver, which should give better performance in the slushier seasons.

I've saved the most glorious hardtop convertible for last. The **Ferrari California** (starting at $192,000) posts the best numbers of any of the hardtop convertibles: The front-engine 4.3-liter V8 (a rarity for Ferrari, a company that prefers midengine layouts) produces 453 hp and can rocket this car from 0-60 in less than four seconds; even the folding top is fast, retracting in just 14 seconds. Still, as Ferraris go, the California is of the housebroken variety, with comfortable seats, room for luggage, and even some optional rear seats. Nevertheless, performance is a priority, with a lightning-fast paddle-shift transmission and a muscular suspension system. Plus, the California has the gorgeous Pininfarina body design that can make anyone sexy by just sitting in it. Here I'd take a moment to mention that this is not at all a winter car; but really, anyone driving a Ferrari in a snowstorm deserves to wrap it around a tree—so I'm not going to bother telling you when you can and cannot drive it.

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[Without Pretense]

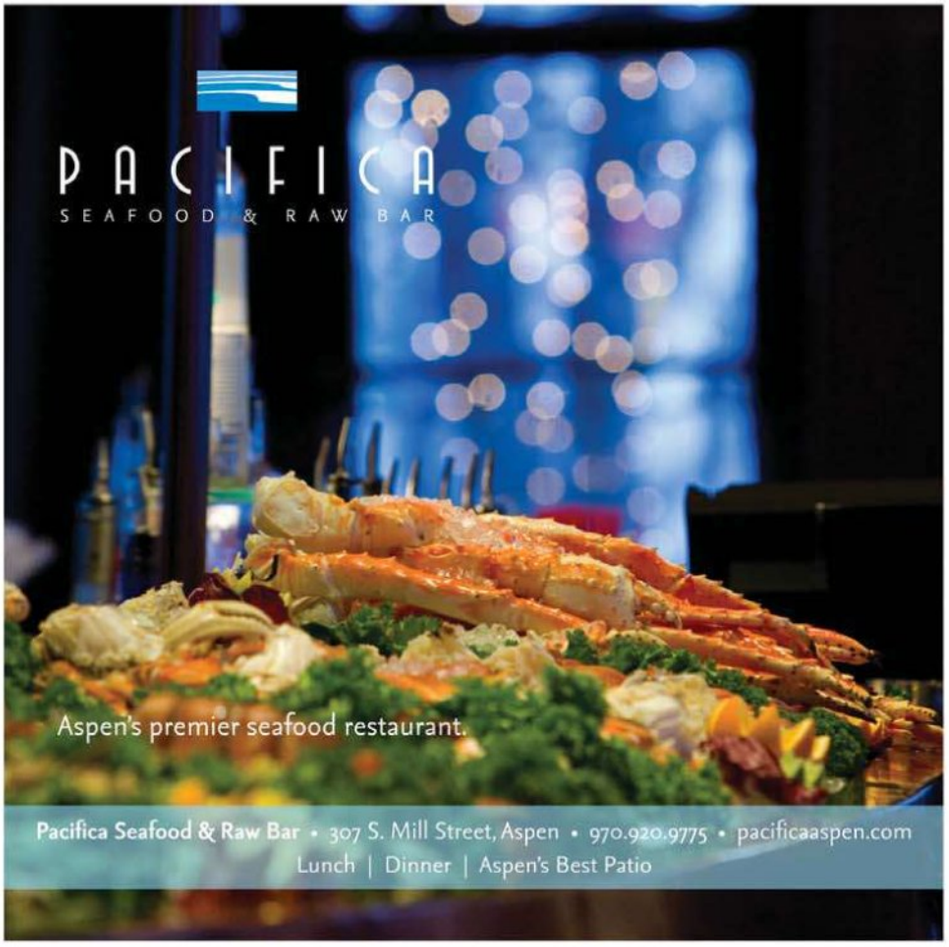
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

been repeatedly asking for a wider range of merchandise, Lyons notes. "We were able to add several jewelry cases full of vintage-inspired costume pieces, as well as increase our shoe presence. Clients have been asking for more ballet flats and boots, and now we have a bit more breathing room to do so."

Minus the men's space, the store has increased the number of in-stock Collection pieces, which are often handcrafted and available in extremely limited quantity. J.Crew Collection is typically reserved for more urban markets such as New York, where the company's Madison Avenue location is dedicated to the line. But Lyons explains the choice to feature the Collection in the Aspen store: "We had the chance to up the luxe quotient and offer even more specialty pieces, because Aspenites could shop just about anywhere. We want to give them a reason to come *here*."

Aspen women often pause on the sidewalk to admire J.Crew's artful window displays. At present, the window showcases the Collection line with a hard-to-find, hand-printed nude silk floral dress and an elegant sweatshirt featuring a full-sequin front.

Up next? They'll unveil a new take on the toggle coat by Gloverall, the original duffle manufacturer in England. Also watch for new styles of Quoddy moccasins, which will be available in select boutiques only. The practical but stylish shoes are "particularly appropriate for the Aspen customer," points out Lyons, who found her five-inch heels a challenge on the town's brick-paved walkways.



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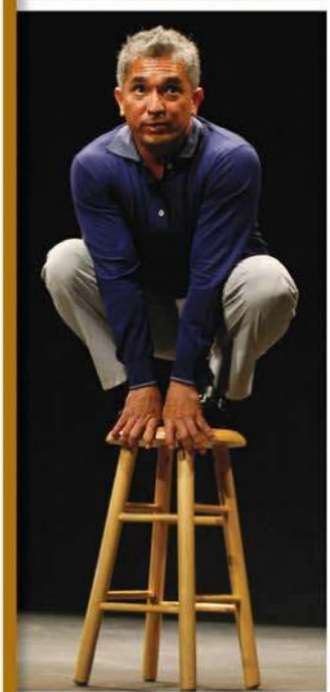

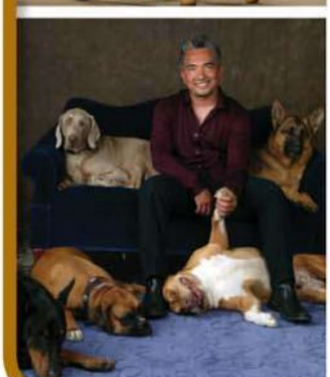

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PRACTICAL ELEMENTS: Many of the home's green features are invisible: insulation, radiant heating, low-VOC finishes. Appliances, *left*, are mostly Energy Star qualified.

[Open House]

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 104

In spite of these choices, the builders gained other points for highly efficient heating based on a geothermal exchange system, a ground-sourced heat pump, a superior gas-fired furnace (use only as a backup), solar thermal panels on the roof, and solar photovoltaic panels for electricity production. A sophisticated computer system combines the benefits of each component to provide occupants with the most efficient heating and cooling.

Many of the house's most practical elements are invisible or hidden behind the walls. Insulation, sealing, engineered framing to reduce wood use, radiant heating, a superinsulated roof, and low-VOC paints and varnishes all combine to make the home healthier as well as more comfortable.

One element that's more visible is the lighting, a combination of low-voltage halogen, compact fluorescent, and LED fixtures, reducing energy demand.

A Deeper Sense of Green

But enough about the technicalities. What does the house feel like? The truth is, it's amazingly comfortable.

Dark wood tones contrast with natural elements of stone and stonelike surfaces. In the bathrooms and other areas, surfaces range from an unusual, slightly textured soapstone to one made from grass seeds and recycled concrete. American clay covers the walls, giving them a soft feel and texture and providing the twin benefits of equalizing humidity while being easy to maintain and repair.

On the floors, recycled oak planks dress the main areas, while Mohawk carpeting (made in part from recycled materials) adorns the bedrooms and media room. Automated window shades help reduce glare on the south-facing windows, and operable window-walls invite you to step out onto stone terraces for the sort of breathtaking views we Aspenites have come to expect every day.

All in all, the place seems to raise the bar for luxury homes in Aspen. No longer is it enough to have all the amenities. The new Aspen homebuyer will demand a house that provides the best of comfort without dumping tons of extra pollutants into the clear mountain air.

Suzanne Farver, former Aspen Art Museum director and longtime Aspenite, holds a master's in environmental management from Harvard and a law degree from the University of Denver. She serves on the board of the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies.

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[VIEWS: luxury]

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 58

Lalonde that "print moves product."

Marketing guru Jim Taylor of the Harrison Group proposed that we are at "the dawn of a new economy." (Aspenites may remember Taylor from his presentation last summer at a symposium on the Aspen/Snowmass real estate market, presented by BJ Adams.) "Interest in luxury is trending up, but this interest is qualitatively different from the unbridled enthusiasm that characterized the 'glutonomy' of the mid-2000s," he noted. "We are decidedly not seeing the return of the old economy." His source: an ongoing survey of 1,910 folks in the top 10 percent of wealthy Americans, with a mean household income of $520,000.

"Interest in luxury is trending up, but this interest is qualitatively different from the unbridled enthusiasm that characterized the 'glutonomy' of the mid-2000's,"

— Jim Taylor of the Harrison Group

Numbers show that luxury spending, for the first time in three years, is experiencing a comeback. In the past year, mean incomes have increased by 2 percent while median incomes dropped by 15 percent; this means the rich in the top 2 percent are driving the overall increase. And the super-rich appear to be getting even richer than the regular rich: Mean assets increased 32 percent among the top 2 percent, compared to 13 percent for the remaining 8 percent of this group.

Even guilt is down about purchasing luxury goods (from 54 percent to 45 percent in the past year). And no more poor-posing: It's more O.K. now to be recognized by others as wealthy (from 30 percent to 42 percent in the past year). Partly as a result of these shifts in thinking, the survey predicts a surge of $56 billion in affluent and wealthy discretionary spending, adding an estimated

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$28 billion net boost to the luxury market–an increase of between 6 percent and 8 percent.

The majority of those surveyed believe that the U.S. is still in a recession that will last at least another year. Yet for the first time since 2008, more than 50 percent report happiness and optimism for their own future and their children's. But those feelings come from a gated-community mind-set; there is a "rising tide of insulating within families and choice of friends," said Taylor, "apparently putting the concept of community at some risk."

And in a departure from pre-recession days, he added, respondents are more likely to rate themselves as more successful today than before the recession began–"and not just at work, but also with life."

Other trends: Retail therapy is out. In is shopping as "an expression of goodwill and happiness." What's more, being a passionate specialist is what it's all about these days. For example, about one million households qualify as being in the top tier of travelers. While the pool of spenders is getting smaller (this group represents only 9 percent of total affluence and wealth), they account for an astonishing 42 percent of the total category's spending.

We are living in the "new Econo-Me," said Taylor, where buyers crave data, not drama. He calls it "precision shopping" or "paralleling connoisseurship." Consumers are doing their own due diligence, all while seeking trusted experts to help them choose investment-grade products high in quality,

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OSCAR NIGHT AT THE VICEROY

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Viceroy's Katie Keeling, Amy Trubiroha Wells, and Caitlyn Gembarowicz

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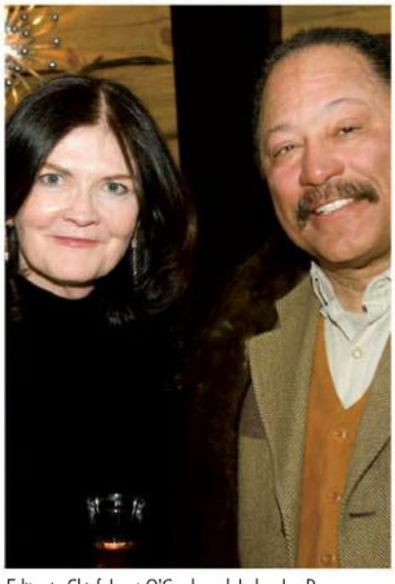
CLICQUOT IN THE SNOW

Every flute was full at the Veuve Clicquot party March 12 at the Sky Hotel. Proceeds from the silent auction benefited Challenge Aspen.

Christine Kaculis, Director of Communications for Veuve Cliquot, Challenge Aspen's MJ Wolfe Faas, and Samantha Barnes, U.S. Business Director of Veuve Cliquot



Editor in Chief Janet O'Grady and Judge Joe Brown

Jimmy Yeager of Jimmy's Restaurant, Nancy Rogers, Challenge Aspen's CEO and founder Houston Cowan

VEUVE AT THE VICEROY

Clicquot in the Snow takes over Snowmass for après ski at the Viceroy hotel March 14 with celebrity hosts Guiliana & Bill Rancic.

Celebrity hosts, Bill & Giuliana Rancic with Editor in Chief Janet O'Grady

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- Views of Pyramid Peak
- Steps to Aspen Golf Course

$3,250,000

RIVERSIDE TOWNHOME

- 4 Bed/4.5 Bath
- 4,100 sq. ft.
- Walking distance to Aspen Core
- Dramatic Aspen Mountain Views

~~$5,995,000~~
$4,750,000

CLASSIC WEST END VICTORIAN

- 4 Bed/4.5 Bath
- 4,400 sq. ft
- Views of Aspen Mountain
- Short Stroll to Hotel Jerome

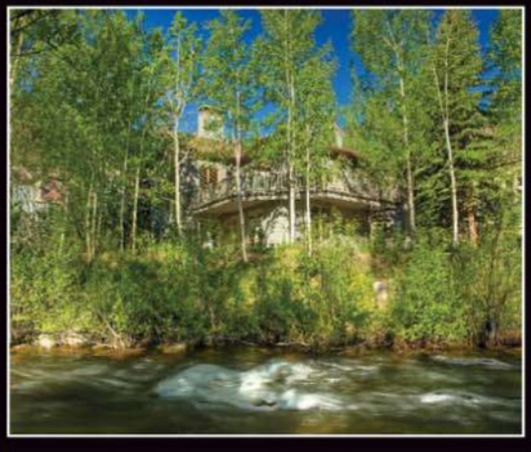
~~$6,495,000~~
$4,950,000

RIVERFRONT HOME... IN-TOWN ASPEN

- 3 Bed/3.5 Bath
- 3,000 sq. ft.
- Stunning River Frontage
- Just Steps to Aspen Malls

$5,500,000

86 UTE PLACE...ON THE ROARING FORK



- 4 Bed/4.5 Bath
- 5,000 sq. ft.
- Riverfront in Prestigious Ute Place
- Views of Independence Pass

~~$9,500,000~~
$8,800,000

RED MOUNTAIN... ON THE RIDGE

- 5 Bed/6 Bath
- 6,300 sq. ft.
- 360 Degree Views Overlooking Aspen
- Separate Guest Apt. and Tennis Court

$9,950,000

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From the Foundation Up

"Jean-Robert's dream of 360-degree views including Mt. Sopris, Independence Pass, Red Mountain and of course, Aspen Mountain, has now been realized."

From humble beginnings over 20 years ago to one of the best fitness centers in town, Jean-Robert's Gym has grown to be an integral part of Aspen's community.

Jean-Robert's mission is to provide members a strong foundation to help them achieve their fitness goals. Everything a person needs to get fit and stay fit, is located in this cutting edge 15,000 square foot facility. Whether you are biking, skiing, rock climbing, hiking or just sightseeing, having a strong fitness foundation will help you enjoy all that the Roaring Fork Valley has to offer. And if you've never done any of these things but have always wanted to, Jean-Robert's Gym will help you find your inner athlete. Every machine, program, instructor, trainer and class is designed to help you succeed.

Membership at Jean-Robert's Gym is straightforward. Once you come in to check it out, you can join for the day, week, month or year. With your membership, you have unlimited access to the best yoga, body pump, kick boxing and fitness classes around. In addition, you can swim in the lap pool, climb on the rock wall, and relax with a steam, sauna and whirlpool.

Located right in downtown Aspen this beautiful space inspires. Jean-Robert's dream of 360-degree views including Mt. Sopris, Independence Pass, Red Mountain and of course, Aspen Mountain, has now been realized. You can't help but feel the energy of excellence that emanates from the design of the gym.

For more info call (970) 920-9595 or go to AspenFitness.com

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42Below's Vodka Professor Justin McKenzie keeps things flowing

ASPEN FILM SHORTSFEST PATRON LUNCHEON

Aspen Film and the board of directors enjoyed a luncheon with the Shortsfest Filmmakers at Kenichi, April 10, hosted by *Aspen Magazine*, 42Below Vodka and Colorado Office of Film/Television/Media.

Aspen Film Board President Pete Louras with wife Sam, along with Maia Newton and Director Lewis Teague

Yasmin Rais, Director Antonio, and Director Marcus McSweeney Shortfest Winner, Creative Consultation in Editing

ARTASPEN & HALTER RANCH

Aspen Magazine welcomed ArtAspen founder Rick Friedman to town with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the Hyatt Grand Aspen, March 31. Art-lovers sipped Halter Ranch Vineyard wine in anticipation of the upcoming international fine art fair, August 6-8.

ArtAspen's Jeffrey Wainhause and Rick Friedman, with fiancée, Cindy Lou Wakefield

Nicholas Piper and Viceroy's Director of Sales and Marketing John Egelhoff

Carrie Rose of Vinture Distributing, Hyatt's Director of Sales Bryan Gilliam, and Jeremy Morris pour Halter Ranch Wines

ASPEN BEACH BASH

To provide surf experiences for wheelchair-bound children, Ocean Healing Group hosted a benefit at the Belly Up, March 23. Aspen Magazine was a sponsor.

Ocean Healing Group's CEO Christiaan Bailey and President Frank Bauer

Leah Roland and Shana Kelley

Clark and Gwyneth Tefft

PHOTOS: STEVE MUNDINGER; ALLISON FLEMING; COURTESY OF OCEAN HEALING GROUP

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THE ESTATE... AT INDEPENDENCE PASS

SCOTT BUILDING #5

ASPEN TENNIS... LOCATION WITH VIEWS

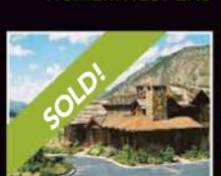
THE RESIDENCES... AT SIERRA VISTA

CONTEMPORARY VICTORIAN...WEST END

ALPINE ELEGANCE... AT MEADOWOOD

AFFORDABLE ASPEN HOME...WEST END

THE DAVIS ESTATE...AT ASPEN VALLEY DOWNS



SCOTT BUILDING 6/7

SAGE COURT... OFF RED BUTTE DRIVE

SKI-IN/SKI-OUT... SNOWMASS RETREAT

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FASHION WEEK

The second annual Aspen Fashion Week returned March 14-19. With après ski runway shows, in-store events, on-mountain soirees, and designers including J. Crew, Kjus, Ralph Lauren, and local men's and women's collection Gray, AFW 2010 was a fashionista's paradise.

W Magazine's Marnie Braverman, Christian Siriano, and Treena Lombardo at opening event

Models and Aspen Fashion Week founder, Lisa Johnson

TENET

These boots were made for walking at the Wolverine 1000 Mile Collection and Tenet in-store event March 14, during the second annual Aspen Fashion Week.

Tenet co-owner Jesse Warren, Christina Vernon of Wolverine, and co-owner of Tenet Gregory Buntain

Andrea Aswad & Chris Bryan of Garfield and Hecht

FEED PARTY AT POLO

FEED co-founders Lauren Bush and Ellen Gustafson

Meredith & Kyle Sauder

GRAY ASPEN

Owners of The Gallerie Eric & Sarah Lippincott presenting Gray Aspen's Spring 2010 collection

Plum TV CEO Brian Bedol and Erin Noethen

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ASPEN FASHION WEEK; CARLIE RUBINO; ALLISON FLEMING

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ASPEN'S BEST VALUES

ENTIRE 'TOP OF THE WORLD' SUBDIVISION

Brush Creek Ranch encompasses 846+ acres of rolling mountain tops, stunning panoramic views and beautiful private land perfect for your dream estate. The 80-acre home sites are zoned to allow 8,250 - 10,000 sf per home located on the hilltops between Owl Creek and Brush Creek Road with views of the entire Roaring Fork Valley, Elk Mountain Range, all four ski areas and Mount Sopris. Brush Creek Ranch is surrounded by (7) substantial conservation easements. These are by far the best "top of the world" 360 degree views available in the valley. Individual lots starting at $3,300,000 or entire ranch for $25,000,000.

MOUNTAIN ELEGANCE!

Stunning architectural masterpiece, tucked away on five plus acres with breathtaking panoramic views of Owl Creek and Snowmass. This beautiful new home has over 10,000 square feet of luxury living space with five bedrooms, five full baths plus three-half baths, theater, exercise room and separate guest living area. Enjoy the beautiful views from the huge wrap-around deck. Situated on five plus acres, this home is perfectly secluded, yet only a few of miles from downtown Aspen. A great location for your horses. Sold Furnished. $17,500,000

INCREDIBLE VIEWS AND PRIVACY

One of Aspen's true legacy properties. Own two of McLain Flats premier ranch sites. Craig Ranch, located in McLain Flats, offers incredible views and privacy. Parcel 7 features 83 acres overlooking the Elk Mountain Ranch, Woody Creek, Snowmass, the four ski areas and White Star Ranch. Parcel 8 includes 153 expansive rolling acres at the far west end of the McLain Flats mesa. Both Craig Ranch sites are amongst the finest estate or ranch sites you could own in the Roaring Fork Valley. Views, privacy and seclusion are extraordinary. Water rights are very extensive, including 1,662 shares of the Salvation Ditch, which are shared between Parcel 7 and Parcel 8. Parcel 7 is offered at $7,500,000. Parcel 8 is offered at $8,500,000.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

This premier lot is located in the historic West End, near the Hotel Jerome, with amazing views and easy walking distance to restaurants, downtown, music tent, parks and much much more! It offers great views of Aspen Mountain. The allowable FAR is 2,780 plus basement, there is a historic shed on the property that maybe renovated into a guest house or garage. This is a perfect opportunity to build your customized home in the West End, close to downtown. $2,495,000

Robert Ritchie

970.379.1500
bob@rdritchie.com
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